HALESOWEN

ONICL

Thursday, September 18, 2014

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Grand Slam winner is back home



Helping young up the jobs Ladder

THE Express & Star has launched the Ladder for the Black Country campaign to help unemployed young adults into work with paid apprenticeships. The newspaper is appealing to firms to take on at least one apprentice and it is

ing to firms to take on at least one apprentice and it is urging young people to grab this opportunity.

Youth unemployment in the Black Country is more than double the national average of 3.9 per cent. Wolverhampton has the longest dole queues in England.

Charity

Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley also all feature in the top 12 youth unemployment blackspots.

Backed by the Duke of York Prince Andrew, the Express & Star has teamed up with the Vine Trust, a charity that is already helping to get young people into ing to get young people into work, to create at least 500

work, to create at least 500 new apprenticeships. Training provider Per-formance Through People (PTP), the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and Ikea Wednesbury are also leading nartners

leading partners.

The newspaper has this week taken on five new apprentice journalists

Interested firms should go to www.ladderfortheblack country.co.uk or call 03332 409 699

Episode axed after arrest

THE latest episode of Cops and Robbers had to be axed after a man in the show was arrested for a serious sex offence against a woman in Birmingham.

The Channel Four series, The Channel Four series, following officers dealing with offenders in Dudley and Birmingham, has been condemned by MPs and residents.

Monday's edition was postponed after a 31-year-old man was arrested. He did not feature in last week's episode of the fourpart documentary.

PREVENTAB **By Mark Andrews** Town is gearing up for the big run



David Matty, Jack Hadlington and John Cartwright from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club with Anthony Simmonds

MORE than 600 runners have already signed up for Sunday's Black Country Road Run in Halesowen and organ-isers are hoping to break records for turnout and amount raised for charity.

The fun run and 10k road race were re-branded last year in a bid to attract more runners and around 600 took part around the streets of the town.

Organisers are confident they can beat last year's total, having drafted in more support from local organisations. A dozen students from Halesowen College's Public Services course will

be among those marshalling the runs.

Forty volunteers in total, including

members of the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and the Inner Wheel, will also be performing roles such as manning water stalls and giving out medals.

Amazing

Organiser, Rotarian Alan Bowler, said: "The momentum this year has been amazing and there are more people talking about it than ever. It is great for the community. We can't thank people enough. It is all about the charitie." the charities

This year legendary Black Country fundraiser 'Blind' Dave Heeley,

from West Bromwich, is also joining the throngs on the start line for the the throngs on the start line for the 10k event, raising money for JDRF, a charity trying to find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes. Dave is famed for several marathon feats including running seven marathons across seven continents in seven days.

Any remaining places will be subject to availability on Sunday. Runners are asked to mass on Somers Square in the town centre for 8.45am.

The start for the 10k road race will be at 9am in Birmingham Road, taking in two laps of the town. There will also be a 5k fun run.

RELATIVES of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was killed in a random attack by a paranoid schizophrenic, have spoken out following a report which identified failings by the police, prison service and NHS.

Christina, 16, was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham by Philip Simelane while she was on her way to Leasowes

Philip Simelane while she v High School in March 2013. The report by Birming-ham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group said her death could have been prevented were it not for 'missed opportunities' by the authorities. Simelane, 23, was sen-tenced to an indeterminate hospital order after plead-

tenced to an indeterminate hospital order after plead-ing guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of dimin-ished responsibility. He had a history of mental illness but had been released unsu-

a history of mental illness but had been released unsupervised from prison three months before the attack.
Christina's great-uncle Chris Melia welcomed the publication of the report by Dr Alison Reed, which made 51 recommendations calling for improved sharing of mental health information between agencies. However, he said the family disagreed with Dr Reed's conclusion that nobody could have predicted the random attack on Christina, which took place on a bus in Hagley Road, Edgbaston.
"The report said that Christina's death was preventable but not predictable, but we believe that very strongly," he said. In a statement, Christina's the said in a statement, Christina's the said in a statement, Christina's family added: "The report clearly shows that long-term failings by members of the police, prison



A BANK robber who took part in two terrifying raids in the Black Country has been locked up for a total of

16 years.
Stephen Loftus, aged 34, Stephen Lottus, aged 34, from Worcestershire, acted as lookout during a robbery at Santander in Bearwood on July 30 last year, in which nearly £5,000 was

In a second robbery at Britannia Building Society in Halesowen three weeks later he carried an imita-tion gun and threatened a cashier, making off with the same amount again.

Traumatised

Staff were left traumatised by the horrific ordeals, with one cashier 'roughed up' during the hold-ups.
At a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Loftus, of Hoarstone Close, Bewdley, was jailed for his part in the raids.
He had been found guilty

City to shed 6,000 jobs

The jobs will be cut by 2018, reducing the number of full-time posts to just 7,000. The losses are on top of around 7,000 jobs that

Unions officials were meeting council bosses yes-terday after branding the news as 'heartbreaking'. Council leader Sir Albert Bore said there were 'grave challenges' ahead.



he was going to stab and kill her. There are so many missed opportunities it's un-believable."

service and medical staff effectively to deal with and treat Philip Simelane during 11 years of a developing mental illness, culminated in a series of mismanaged opportunities throughout the 14 months leading up to Christina's death on a bus in Birmingham."

Mr Melia added that Simelane's mother had called police 21 times in the months leading up to the attack because of her son.

"There were lots of other people who said how gravely ill this chap was but somehow they didn't seem to find it necessary to do anything," said Mr Melia. "He had assaulted a police officer and he had assaulted his mother a number of times. He said he was going to stab and

AROUND 6,000 more jobs will be slashed at Birmingham City Council.

have already been slashed at the authority since 2010.



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Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help: Heather Large: 01384 353203 heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk Alex Ross: 01384 353207 alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk Andrew Turton: 01384 353202 andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk Lee Watton: 01384 353230 lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk Tom Mason: 01902 319550 tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201 katy.meaney@expressandstar.co.uk

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51-53, Queen Street Wolverhampton

Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm www.yourchronicle.com CAMPAIGNERS have suffered a blow in their bid to buy an 18th century walled garden after councillors deferred plans to give a £5,000 Sothack the Belle Vale and Hayley Green community forum towards their costs.

Sothack Yet councillors deferred a deci-

Members of Halesowen Abbey Trust want to buy the Grade I listed garden at The Leasowes park, in Halesowen, to open it to the public. It has been closed since the ardens shut as a centre for hor-

Campaigners struck a deal with new site owners Birmingham Met-ropolitan College in a bid to safe-guard the future of the garden.

But the trust had hoped to secure £5,000 from councillors sitting on

Setback

sion, saying they needed more information, to the disappointment of campaigners.

Trust leader Mick Freer called the issue a 'blip' but vowed to ensure the deal was sealed by its mid-Octo-ber deadline. Mr Freer said that the the purchase price.

He added: "It is disappointing but

I do not think it will cause us too much of a problem because we will buy it one way or another. It is a blip, but that's life."

Trust members are still confident of raising enough cash to complete the deal and will continue to pursue

Prison for bank robber who terrified a cashier

£5k grant delay hits gardens plan

A BANK cashier in Halesowen was left terri fied when robbers burst into her branch and she was threatened with a gun.

The cashier at the Britannia Building Society in Halesowen was unaware that the firearm was an imitation when Stephen Loftus and another man entered the bank She was threatened by the pair as Loftus held the fake gun

four months off work fol-lowing the incident. He said: "The following day she felt sick and petrified when she

saw a customer with a ruck sack, from there her health

sack, from there her heath suffered dramatically." The employee also suf-fered from Bell's Palsy, a weakness or paralysis of face muscles, which Mr Dunston suggested had been brought

suggested had been brought by her terrifying experience, although there was no medical evidence it was linked. In another robbery three weeks before, on July 30, Loftus and two others were involved in a raid at Santander in Bearwood. Another member of the gang went behind the counter and 'roughed up' a staff member.

Loftus remained on the opposite side of the counter and made a hand gesture to the cashier in the form of a

gun and smiled. He was the getaway driver. In defence Mr Andrew Jackson said: "Neither rob-

bery was perpetrated over a lengthy period of time, as such threat of violence was mercifully brief."

mercifully brief."

Loftus, aged 34, of Hoarstone Close, Bewdley, was sentenced to six years for the first robbery and 10 years for the second, with the terms to run consecutively. He got five years for possession of an imitation firearm, to run concurrently. Other men involved in the raids were not caught.

in a plastic bag. She handed over £5,000 to the robbers. Three are Unuston told Wolverhamp-bunston told Wolverhamp-bunston told Wolverhamp-bunston told Staff had taken accused of theft plot

TWO men and a teenager are accused of plotting to steal vehicles at a Halesowen car dealership.

Mohammed Khan, Kieran Gordon, and a 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reason, will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court tomorrow (Friday).

Keys

It is alleged the trio, ar-rested in the early hours last Thursday near Halesow-en's Beechwood Audi, used lock-picking equipment and a device to program blank car keys in a bid to steal ve-

Khan, aged 24, from Walford Road in Sparkhill, Birmingham, Gordon, 18, from Mill Road, Cradley Heath and the 17-year-old from Smethwick are accused of attempted burglary at the Manor Lane dealership and conspiracy to steal motor vehicles.

The trio are also charged with stealing an Audi RS5 from New Street in Wolverhampton on August 22 and a burglary in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, on August 23 when two cars were

The 17-year-old faces two further charges of burglary.

Truckers back transplants



Truckers and their supporters celebrate the convoy's progress across the Black Country

HORNS blared and crowds cheered as more an 40 trucks took to the streets of the lack Country to raise funds to help people who need organ transplants.

who need organ transplants.

The huge convoy, which weighed in excess of 1,500 tons, set off from Hilton Park Services and passed through five Black Country centres before arriving at the Kingfisher Club in Wall Heath.

At its pask the factors when the set of the pask the factors when the first pask the factors when the first pask the factors when the factors were the first pask the factors when the factors were the pask the factors when the factors were the factors when the fa

At its peak, the fleet measured a mile in length and featured more than 60 vehicles, as cars and vans joined in.

Crowds gathered to cheer the drivers on during their 24-mile trip through Wolverhampton, Bilston, West Bromwich, Oldbury and Dudley. The event raised more than £1,200 for the Liver Foundation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Organiser Andrew Day led the convoy in the 44-ton Volvo truck he drives for WK Edwards in Russells Hall. He said the campaign was inspired by his wife Rachel, who underwent a life-saving kidney transplant on Christmas Day in 2006.

Blaze at derelict school building

MORE than 40 firefighters were called in to tackle a blaze at a former school in Blackheath.

Blackheath.
Eeight fire engines attended the scene in Holt
Road, the site of the former
Holt Farm Primary School.
The roof of part of the
105-year-old building was
destroyed by the blaze,
which took more than two
hours to extinguish. Flames
and huge plumes of black
smoke were visible for miles
around the scene. around the scene.

around the scene.

Crews from Smethwick attended the scene after the fire was reported at around 4.10pm on Saturday. When they saw the scale of the fire they called for back-up and were joined by additional crews from Dudley, High attended to the scene from Judey, Hot Ladywood and Haden Cross.

Holt Road was sealed off

Holt Road was sealed off at both ends for four hours while West Midlands Fire Service attempted to secure the area. Fire investigators were also at the scene try-ing to determine the cause of the fire.

Firefighters used a large rig to help them push over a large gable wall in order to quell the flames.

The school hads been boarded up since closure in 2006 and had been a regular target for vandals.

Scarecrows invade village

THE Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival turn for its 19th year

turn for its 19th year.
The festival takes place across the village of Belbroughton on September 27 and 28. More than 100 scarecrows are expected this year with the theme being movie heroes and villains.

All money raised from the

All money raised from the festival will be shared be-

festival will be shared be-tween charities.

Organisers will also be taking food collections, which will be donated to the Black Country Foodbank.

For more information visit belbroughtonscare crow coulk website

crow.co.uk website.

Celebrate Cradley

THE biannual Cradley Day will be held next month.

Cradley Sports and Social Club in Colley Lane will host the ninth Cradley Day from 10.30am to 3pm on October Organisations will have 4. Organisations displays including an exhibition marking the centenary of the First World War.



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infrastructure in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

evicted

COUNCIL tenant has

A COUNCIL tenant has been evicted from his home after he ignored warnings following persistent abuse of drugs in the property. Ramone Das, aged 21, was kicked out of his home in Simmons Drive, Quinton, after ignoring warnings from police and Birmingham City Council. He was issued with an anti-social behaviour injunction in February but after failing to heed warnings, Birming-

February but after failing to heed warnings, Birming-ham County Court issued an outright possession order on Friday.

The smell of cannabis, alongside his threatening behaviour, caused a nui-sance to residents living in

Councillor James McKay said: "I praise the commit-ment of staff from both

Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police

and West Midlands Police and local residents for tak-ing a stand in this case. We will seek Possession Orders against any of our tenants who breach their tenancy

above the law and commit crimes and cause anti-social hehaviour can think again."

Armed raid

on Aldi store

THREE masked men armed with machetes carried out a

robbery at a supermarket in

Dudley, leaving one female member of staff with minor injuries.

The robbers burst into

A 22-year-old shop worker suffered a cut to her

hand during the raid and was treated by paramedics.

Anyone with information should call police on 101. **Pub site homes**

PLANS for five four-bed-room detached homes on

the site of a Black Country the site of a Black Country pub have been lodged. Horgan Homes and Devel-opments Ltd has submitted proposals to Dudley Council planners for the scheme at

the Yew Tree Inn in Hockley

Lane, Dudley

conditions in this way. conditions in this way."

Sergeant Jeff Doak, of the
Quinton Neighbourhood
Policing Team, said: "As
this eviction clearly shows,
those who think they are The money has been secured thanks to the four Black Country councils working in partnership with the Black Country Con-sortium to find £3 million of funding, which will be matched by the Government-backed

Dudley MP Ian Austin has been campaigning to get the Government to back the plans for high speed broadband in the area.

Secured

He has recently received a letter from Digital Economy Minister Ed Vaizey to confirm the funding had been secured.

He said: "Constituents got in touch with

me after being told by broadband companies that there were no plans for Dudley to get superfast broadband.

"Places like London have been the first to Places like London have been the lirst to benefit and I don't see why Dudley should be left behind, so I'm really pleased 95 per cent of people in the Black Country will now be covered. I'm pleased the Black Country Consortium and local councils have made this progress. Now I want the Government to guarantee that Dudley will get covered as soon as nossible." soon as possible.

Councillor Judy Foster, Dudley Council cabinet member for economic regenera tion, added: "In Dudley we are absolutely committed to ensuring businesses in our borough have the platform to prosper and thrive. Only 60 per cent of businesses in the Black Country have access to super-fast broadband but this agreement by the four Black Country councils and the LEP, will help meet the target of super-fast broad-band being available to 95 per cent of peo-

Village is

to restore

library in

phone box

A CALLOUS arsonist stopped to admire their wicked ork, videoing one of the world's smallest librar-CALLOUS

A grainy CCTV image showed the vandal taking out their phone and captur-

ing the moment as they destroyed the phone box book exchange in Clent, near Stourbridge. A car nearby was also set on fire.

The charred remains of hundreds of books lay inside the blackened skeleton of the familiar red phone box on Bromsgrove Road, celebrated as one of the world's complete libraries.

A fundraising drive is under way so that the phone

box library, destroyed in July, can be restored.

of the Clent History Society, said: "It was a pointless act of destruction, there's no gain for the person that did it, and the consequence for the rest of the village is that it's greated a late of the consequence."

it's created a lot of upset.

"But in one respect it has created a bit of community

spirit because people are discussing it."

Cheques made payable to the Clent History Society can be sent to Yew Tree Cottage, Bromsgrove Road, Holy Cross, Clent, Worcestershire, DY9 9QF.

Paul Timmins, Chairman

smallest libraries.

ies as it burned.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student awards mean business

ACHIEVEMENTS of busi-ACHIEVEMENTS of ousiness students across the region were celebrated at an event organised by Halesowen College. Roman Aslamzada, 18, a former Shireland Collegiate Acad-

Shireland Collegate Academy pupil, was awarded for outstanding progress.

Hannah Davies, 17, and Shamila Akhtar, 18, were awarded for outstanding contribution to the busicontribution to the busi-ness department, Andrew Faure, 21, for the most improved and Joseph Mulhern, 17, for commit-ment to college life. Guest speakers were from TSB Bank in Halesowen.

Jobs are saved in company buyout

MORE than 50 jobs have been saved after an his-toric Black Country boiler company was rescued from administration by its own management.

Bosses at Wellman have put together a manage-ment buyout deal for the business, which went into administration last month.

It saves 52 jobs at the Newfield Road factory in Oldbury, which can trace its roots back to 1840 and Dudley iron boat and boil-ermaking firm of Danks of Netherton.

Charity night in aid of Dementia UK

A CHARITY night will be held in Stourbridge in aid of Dementia UK. The event featuring music and a raffle will be at Katie Fitzgerald's pub on Friday, October 3, from Spm. Organiser Emma

Organiser Emma
Weaver, of Kingswinford,
said: "My grandfather suffered with dementia as did my boyfriend's." Band He-roes of Hanoi will headline. Tickets are £3, call Emma on 07891896476.

Methodist church harvest festival

A CHURCH is preparing to host its harvest festival this weekend. Residents are invited to Hurst Green Methodist Church, in Methodist Church, in Halesowen, for the harvest festival service at 11am on

There will also be a more informal cafe session service held that afternoon at the church in Narrow Lane.

Uni memorial fund

A STUDENT hardship fund is being launched by the University of Wolver-hampton in memory of Lord Bilston, former city MP Dennis Turner, after STUDENT hardship a Government move to axe access to learning funding.

Vets gets expansion green light but with noise clause

go-ahead to expand into a former supermarket but must come up with a measure to keep animal noise to a minimum.

The Manor Veterinary Centre, in Kent Road, Halesowen, was given planning permission to open a surgery in an adjacent former Co-operative store in Manor Road by Dudley Council.

The application was granted on the condition the business gets a scheme approved to protect nearby residents from noise

The surgery will also only be allowed a maximum number of two consultants working in the extension.

Opposition

The proposal was met with opposition from four residents who complained about potential noise, park-ing problems and the loss of the supermarket, which

of the supermarket, which closed earlier this year.

In a notice of approval written by the director of the urban environment, John Millar said: "Development shall not begin until a scheme for protecting residents in the residential properties from noise from the yeterinary surgery has The robbers burst into Aldi, in Saltwells Road, at 7.15am on Wednesday, September 10, and threatened staff with the weapons before leaving with cash in a getaway car and heading toward Cradley Heath. the veterinary surgery has been submitted and approved by the planning au-

thority."
Officers said due to the surgery being primarily run with staff front the existing surgery, there would not be huge demand for parking

By Alex Ross

The centre's agents said the expansion was down to the expansion was down to the success of the firm. They said: "The practice needs more space to alleviate the pressure on the their exist-ing premises at Kent Road. "The acquisition will pro-vide an acceptable and con-venient building to satisfy this need".

this need.

The building would be refurbished to provide four operating theatre rooms on the ground floor. There would also be a store, tea room and toilet.

On closing the supermarket transferred the workers to new Co-op in Spies Lane and created 10 new jobs.

The environmental safety and health team at Dudley Council raised no objection to the plan.

In a letter, the team said "The application premises are in a precinct of existing retail premises and are next door to an existing veteri-nary surgery, which is also operated by the applicant."

Gutted — the unique phone box library following the arson attack in Clent

Roundheads vs Cavaliers

HISTORIAN Margaret Bradley is giving a free talk on Cradley, Stourbridge and Dudley in the English Civil War. There were several skirmishes between Roundheads and Cavaliers in the area during the 17th century conflict between king and Parliament, and the early iron industry got a boost from the demand for armaments. The talk is at 7.30pm at Overend Methodist Mission in

Banners Lane, Cradley, on Thursday, September 25



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THE BEST OF

IT'S too late now but, with hindsight, the campaign to keep the UK together should have played the Celt card and appealed to the Scots' better nature and kinship with the people of Wales. Imagine the impact of a series of short TV commercials with much-loved Welsh celebrities pleading tearfully: "Please, please don't leave us alone

I'M off to France next week on a pilgrimage to Cambrai Arras, Agincourt and various other battlefields. It's a coach trip, arguably the finest mode of travel ever invented. Hove the sheer freedom from responsibility. You just turn up, load your case and let some jovial driver take you there, bring you back and deliver you to all points in between. Plus, you can admire the French countryside with a glass of plonk. Parfait. This year marks the co the charabanc. I hope someone is celebrating it.

WATCHING Peter Capaldi losing his temper as Doctor Who is like watching Lewis Hamilton racing without changing up from first gear. To see Capaldi at his mon-strous best, go to YouTube and find the White House scene from the movie In The Loop when his character Malcolm Tucker takes offence at being briefed by an aide who looks about 14. Still terrifying after all these years.

VIVIAN Boyack and Alice Dubes, a lesbian couple in their 90s have just got married in lowa, having been together since 1942. The preacher remarked at the ceremony: "This is a celebration of something that should have happened a very long time ago." Amen to that. It is only fair that couples like Vivian and Alice can enjoy proper civic and legal rights. But what about those same-sex pairs, like elderly brothers and sisters, who live together as life partners for companionship but are not gay? In England gay couples now have the choice of a civil partnership or marriage. Non-gay couples do not. It seems unfair that issues such as inheritance tax and pension transfer should depend on what people get up to

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Petition is launched y grieving mother

died of a drug overdose the same day he came out of prison has launched a petition calling for more to be done to help addicts after they are released.

Jason Bailey died at his mother's home in Hale-

from having to go through the heartache that we have

the heartache that we have gone through."

She said she wanted to make people aware of the lack of support that is given to drug addicts when released from prison.

Mr Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said at the inquest into Jason Baliey's death that he would write to the prison service to express his concerns.

He commented: "I am concerned that in the cir-cumstances of this case that

there was no support for Mr Bailey. He was a known

Mr Bailey. He was a known heroin user. There was no support services available. It seems to me there was every likelihood he would buy heroin, which is exactly what he did."

To sign the petition visit www.change.org and search Beverly Bailey.

Jason Bailey died at his mother's nome in Halesowen on June 4 after overdosing on heroin.

His mother, Beverly Bailey, said her son was released from prison following a 10-week stint for shop theft as having no fixed abode, and with around £100 he had earned from working while in prison.

in prison. She has now started a sine has now started a petition to change the re-lease system for known drug addicts from prison, by giving them vouchers or a credit card system which limits what they spend their

money on. Mrs Bailey said: "I think Mrs Bailey said: "I think it makes more sense that when they come out of prison to be able to get support and get the things they need to, rather than going out and spending it on drugs.

"A credit card system which can allow them to spend money on transport, food, clothing and pay for a hostel or a halfway house would support them rather

a nostel or a nairway nouse would support them rather than just giving them money to spend on drugs. "If anything good can come from what has hap-pened to us is a complete change of the system. It

Flag up support to stay united



Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper with the Saltire

IT'S a symbolic gesture to show solidarity to the thou-sands of Scots living in the Black Country – the Salsands of Scots living in the Black Country – the Sal-tire was flying at Sandwell Council House ahead of to-day's referendum on inde-pendence for Scotland.

Council bosses say they hope Scotland votes to keep the union with the rest of the United Kingdom and

the United Kingdom and say many Scottish families living in the Black Country do not want to be separated from their fellow Scots.

It comes as Prime Minister David Cameron, his deputy Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband made an impassioned plea for Scotland to stay in the union.

Causcillor Darren Cooper.

stay in the union.

Councillor Darrenl Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, is supporting the No vote and wants the UK to remain united. He said: "It goes back to our industrial heritage. The Black Country was built on the backs of working class people from all over the UK, including Scotland. We have around 1,000 people from Scotland living in Sandwell."

Some councils, including

Some councils, including Dudley, were not flying the Saltire this week.

Minister looks at station progress

A TRANSPORT minister has inspected progress at the expansion of Rowley Re-gis railway station.

gis railway station.

John Hayes MP, responsible for transport infrastructure, went to see the ongoing work to expand the car park and install a cycle hub.

hub.

He said: "The extension to the park and ride facilities at Rowley Regis is an important step in a package of measures to improve local transport connections in the West Midlands.

"More people are using regional train networks and

a record amount of money is being invested in our railways to improve the ser-vice."

wice."

Mr Hayes was joined by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and Halesowen North Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

The new car park, which is on track to be completed by the end of this year, will feature 360 extra spaces, energy efficient lighting, charging points for electric vehicles, and CCTV cameras to make the area safer.

There will also be help points that will be directly linked to the Network Safety and Security Centre.

The new cycle hub will be able to store 30 bikes securely, with access being restricted to people who have signed up for the free scheme.

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business expands

A CRADLEY Heath man-ufacturing business, which has just celebrated 40 yearstrading, is planning to ex-

Has just ceieroited by year, strading, is planning to expand.

Howells Patent Glazing, based at the Triton Works in Woods Lane, has also recently received investment which will result in the creation of more jobs.

It has got a grant from Bourneville College and the European Regional Development Fund in order to expand the company by providing help with promotion and marketing.

Walter Howells and his wife Patricia established the

wife Patricia established the business in 1973 initially from their home in Walsall but since then the business has grown substantially and later moved to its current site in Cradley Heath.

Howells Patent Glazing offers bespoke roof glazing. The company also makes a range of roof lights and canopies. Howells has worked on major projects including The Mailbox in Birming-

ham.

Managing director Mr
Howells said: "We have
come a long way since I first
set up Howells in my living
room all those years ago.
We will be creating at least
two new jobs over the coming months. We have high
hopes that we will go from
strength to strength."
The firm currently em-

The firm currently emloys 25 including five memers of the Howells family.

New jobs as family Work starting on £1.3m revamp of crematorium

to revamp and expand a crematorium in the Black Country.

Rowley Regis Crematorium, in Powke Lane, was first opened in 1962. Now it is being updated to enable it to accommodate larger groups of mourners.

The project will see the site's chapel double in size to provide more than 100 seats for families and friends attending

funeral services.

Architects Martin Critchell are working in conjunction with local funeral directors and Sandwell Council's bereavement services on the design for the modernisation.

Sensitive

Work will also focus on creating a new entrance, improved toilet facilities, ad-

improved toilet facilities, additional car parking spaces, improvements to the interior and exterior of the building and a new waiting area for families.

Wolverhampton-based Interclass Plc has secured the contract to complete the modernisation of the crematorium.

Director and general manager Don Ward said: "Our team will be working closely with council staff throughout this project to ensure that we respect the sensitive nature of the site so that disruption to funeral so that disruption to funeral services is kept to a minimum."

By Charlie Benton

Councillor Mahboob Hus sain, Sandwell Council's deputy leader, said: "We are always looking at new ways of making improvements of making improvements to frontline services and the work at Rowley Regis Crematorium is just one of a number that have been made.

"The work at Rowley Regis follows the expansion of Sandwell Valley Crematorium and there have been

other big improvements in service including combining our coroners, bereavement and registration service into a single service to support

a single service to support family more readily. "We're also developing a digital autopsy centre at Sandwell Valley Cremato-rium to offer non-invasive poet more toms." post mortems.

Sandwell Council said the crematorium will continue to be open for business for the majority of the seven months of the work.

GOLDbury celebrates its Games heroes



Golden girl Jodie Stimpson with fellow Oldbury sports stars Mikail Huggins, Jaswant Shergill and Chinu

IT is not very often you get three Commonwealth Games winners from one town. So when Oldbury was turned into GOLDbury for the day to mark the achievements of the area's athletes, hundreds of people turned out

letes, hundreds of people turned out to celebrate.

The town centre was transformed into a mini sports arena, a bus stop was sprayed gold and road signs re-named in honour of their achievements.
Triathlete Jodie Stimpson, who

bagged two gold medals at the Games in Glasgow, took centre stage along with fellow gold winner guide runner

with fellow gold winner guide runner Mikail Huggins amd bronze-medal winning wrestler Chinu.

They were also celebrating the success of weightlifter Jaswant Shergill who also hails from Oldbury and set a personal best at the games.

All four said they were overwhelmed by the number of people who turned out to salute them at the weekend.

Oldbury-born Jodie said: "I didn't

eggins, Jaswant Shergill and Chinu
expect that amount of people to come
out and see us. It meant such a lot and
I was very humbled by it. It seems the
whole of Sandwell has backed us.
"I hope all of us who took part in the
Commonwealth Games have gone on
to inspire a new generation of athletes
and that there will be lots of young
Sandwell stars among them."

Jodie, aged 25, a former Oldbury
Swimming and Triathlon Club member, won gold medals in the solo and
mixed triathlon this summer.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to join in town's panto

A THEATRE company is appealing for more people to tread the boards ahead of its annual pantomime.

Halesowen-based Star-time Variety will present Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood at the town's Cornbow Hall in January.

The group is on the look-out for new members aged 16 and over who are interested in getting involved.

ested in getting involved.
Publicity officer Jeanette
Greenway said: "Startime
Variety provides affordable, family-friendly live
entertainment for the community, and supports local
charities by donating the
profits from these shows
each year."
The show will run from

The show will run from

The show will run from January 28 to 31.

For more details about Startime Variety, which was founded in 1967, call 0121 550 3899.

Firms needed to back festive lights

AN APPEAL has been launched for sponsors for Christmas trees and festive decorations.

tive decorations.

Dudley Council is looking for companies who are interested in sponsoring the borough's festivities. Christmas lights switch-on events will be held in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge, Halesowen and other areas across the borough.

One sponsor for each event will be invited to

One sponsor for each event will be invited to switch on the lights with Mayor of Dudley Councilor Margaret Aston.

Call (01384) 815228 for details.



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IN MY VIEW

AS we speak Lam contemplating taking a hammer to my mobile phone and smashing it to piece es. A primitive form of repair, concede but yet again it has de-cided to wake me an hour earlier than I intended by deciding to do a spot of spontaneous pho-

tography.
Now you might well be asking why I simply don't switch the thing off for the night. But unfortunately, it doesn't respond terribly well to that, either, it usually sulks for about half an hou in the morning, locks itself up at inopportune moments, makes videos of me shouting at it, and fails to receive calls or text mes

sages.
Four or five attempts to switch the thing on and off, a bit of light cursing, and it's usually right as rain. But to be honest, I can do without the hassle first thing in

the morning.

I suppose I shouldn't really complain too much. I bought the thing about five years ago, which seems to be the shelf life of modern technology, and I only paid £30 for it, so I suppose I paid 130 for It, so I suppose I have got my money's worth. And today it did wait until dawn before it decided to disturb my sleep. On previous occasions it has decided to wake me at two or three in the morning, lighting up the room and making a not particularly pleasant record of

my snoring. Nevertheless, I suppose it is time to get a new one, but if I'm honest I will be a little sad to see the back of my battered pay-as-you-go Nokia. Partly, because I will have to learn how to operate a new phone, and yet I still ha-ven't really got to grips with the old one. I've had the thing half a decade, and I still don't know what 'connectivity' or 'configu-rations' actually mean. And what will actually happen if I tinker with these buttons? Some things are best left alone.

But the real reason why I want to stick with my trusty Nokia as long as possible comes in the form of the new iPhone 6, which

comes out on Friday.

Now I suspect the majority of Now I suspect the majority of you know as little about this as I do, but apparently it is a little bigger than the iPhone 5, and will cost £549. And people have been camping out in London's Regent's Park just to be first in the queue.

the queue.

How tragic is that? People spending a week living in a tent just so they can pay more than a monkey for a telephone. Which does pretty much the same thing a contribution of the same thing the same than the same tha

as my thirty-quid Nokia.

Now there are no shortage of people who laugh at my phone.
They tell me it is outdated, unreliable, and about as cool as
Jeremy Clarkson. And of course,

But you know what? I own it.
Whereas, with all the nerdy types
coveting the new iPhone 6 and tying themselves up with long and expensive contracts, it is the phone that owns them.



More curious items in the Holly Hall collection



Jake with a bike once used by chimney sweep Joe Black



The future of commuting that failed - a Sinclair C5

Collection is on show to visitors

CHARLIE BENTON takes a look at Dudley man Jake Pearson's collection of curiosities and bric-a-brac

HE has everything from 14th century Arabic coins and one armed bandit slot machines to butcher's bikes and a Sinclair C5 in his personal collection which has taken five years to accumulate.

Now Jake Pearson is opening up his

memorabilia of 1,000 different curios to

members of the public to help raise funds for a good cause.

The 72-year-old from Dudley decided to start collecting the items at his home on

a whim. He said: "I woke up one morning and recalled the old cast iron range fire grate we used to have when I was a child so I decided to go out and buy one.

"I found and bought one that was originally from Himley Hall and it all started from there really."

from there really."

Mr Pearson said he collects things that he remembers from his childhood that he

believes will strike a chord with others.

The items are stored in a dedicated 60ft veranda and extension outside of his Holly Hall home with all of the items on display.

"They have similar things at the Black

Country Living Museum and such but why should people pay however much a ticket costs there when they can see bet-ter items here?" Jake said.

Hospital

Mr Pearson said people are welcome to view his items and if they want to they can make a donation which Mr Pearson said will go towards Russell's Hall Hospital cancer ward.

He said he is constantly on the lookout for memorabilia to add to his collection



Dudley collector Jake Pearson in his garage stuffed full of memorabilia

and more than anything would love to add a fairground ride as a garden decoration. He made a similar appeal for people to come along and view his collection a few years ago when it was smaller but he did not get the reaction he was hoping for.
"My collection has grown since I last made the appeal and I have more inter-seting things for more along.

esting things for people to come along and see," he added. "I have quite a col-lection of bicycles now which I think are fantastic — I have an old butcher's bike, a baker's bike, a tandem bicycle

in showroom condition and a penny farthing.

farthing."

Although his wife is supportive of his collection, to a point, Jake said she mainly just 'gets on with it' as she respects his hobby. Between them they have three children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr Pearson said that he believes young children will love the collection as his own great-grandchildren often come round to see the items he has on show.

show.
"They do like to mess around with

the things so sometimes I do have to watch them with the rarer items," he said. "They do seem to enjoy the one armed bandit slot machines and will spend ages playing with them."

Although his expansive collection only started growing to the size it is now over the past few years Jake said he has always been fond of old things.

He said: "I have often collected or bought older things, I have even been through a period of owning classic cars which I loved."

Over the vears hehas owned both a

which I loved."
Over the years hehas owned both a classic Aston Martin and Jaguar.
One of the most curious items he has is an old writing box from a Congregational Sunday school in Brierley Hill presented to a Mr J Holmes around 1807.

Information

Despite going to a number of Sunday schools in Brierley Hill as a child he does

schools in briefley fill as a child ne does not recognise the school and would like some more information on the item. He said he does not keep track of his spending as he prefers to think more of the viewing appeal and sentimental value of the items

value of the items.

Although he has thought before about moving the collection from his home and setting up his own museum space, Jake said health issues have prevented him.

An ex-lorry driver, he said that he is not retired but that his failing eyesight has made it impossible to work.

has made it impossible to work.

He is proud of his collection, He said:
"I've had people come in and they are
gobsmacked and think what I have is
brilliant. When they come in and they
see all the things that I have they are
so impressed and it absolutely makes
my day.

my day.
"I just want people to come out and see these things so they don't go to waste and hopefully a bit of money can be raised for Russells Hall in the pro-

cess."
People interested in viewing his collection should call him on (01384) 484309.

POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwrigh

THE National Health Service will IHE National Health Service will be one of the main battlegrounds for the next election and the West Midlands is going to see some of the fiercest fights.

The scandal of Stafford Hos-

pital has spread out to others with more patients being taken to Wolverhampton and Walsall for care. The brand of Stafford has been tainted.

Politicians are using it as a stick to beat each other with. stick to beat each other with.
The Tories hold it up as an example of why Labour is no longer fit to oversee its own greatest achievement, the NHS itself, while Labour points to the downgrade of Stafford as an example of how the Tories can't be trusted with it.

Stafford itself is a marginal Stafford itself is a marginal constituency. Conservative Jeremy Lefroy has been campaigning as hard as anyone could for the hospital, but could well be punished if his pleas are falling on deaf ears with his own party. His Labour opponent Kate Godfrey has already told him to stand down and force a by-election to put Stafford at the top of the agenda. Amid the typical red y blue row, an alternative emerg-

v blue row, an alternative emerg-

Karen Howells, a founding member of the Support Stafford Hospital campaign, which has been camped out on the lawn been camped out on the lawn of the site to fight the planned downgrade, is standing for the National Health Action party. It might well be a one-issue party, but in Stafford it also happens that its one issue is the biggest one.

gest one.

And it would be foolish to

write the party off as a wasted vote. One of its founders is Dr Richard Taylor, who was elected as an independent in Wyre Forest not once but twice.

Neither Labour nor the Con-

Neither Labour nor the Conservatives can afford to write Stafford off. There is still little between them in the opinion polls and the key marginals that changed hands in 2010 are the ones that will determine who gets to run the country from 2015.

Leave it to the voting public to decide how much MPs get paid and the answer would probably be 'nothing'.

De 'nothing'.

So they were all prepared for grumbling over the recommended hike in their pay. Simply put, they don't deserve it at a time of austerity, particularly when other public servants have endured a

pushing servants have endured a pay freeze.

The problem is they didn't decide that they should get it. That was the verdict of the independent body set up to regulate their pay because so many of them couldn't be trusted not to treat couldn't be trusted not to treat the taxpayer like their own per-

The taxpayer like their own personal piggy bank.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was created to stop them deciding what they should get. And now it's come to a decision they're being tall to interest and overable it. told to intervene and overrule it, which sort of defeats the whole







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FENSA

Romantic folk could make a big myth-take

SCOTLAND is following a Utopia awaits them just by voting for behind them, an entire generation was haunting and alluring myth, independence is completely misleading. lost forever.

Wake no mistake, this referendum that of freedom from the voke.

haunting and alluring myth, that of freedom from the yoke of English oppression. It is bred into them to believe that rule from England is a bad thing. They relish a fight for freedom.

Like the Pied Piper, Salmond is playing a magical tune, appealing to the deepest emotions of Scots. Scotland enjoys no less freedom that anyone else in the UK and to claim that

Cheaper car parks are answer

SO there is to be multi sto-SU there is to be multi sto-rey car parking in Tower Street, Dudley , costing £2.5 million and yet a councillor says people aren't using the massive car park in Flood Street which is not a bus ride from the town centre, just a few minutes' walk, if that.

that.

The councillor said, people aren't using Flood
Street, yet for some reason
he seems to think 250 spaces costing £2.5m will do won-

Now, here's a thought! How about having cheaper car parking and perhaps, just perhaps, people may re-turn to a once-thriving town

If it doesn't work at least II it doesn't work at least they would have tried and, if it works, Dudley Council could avoid forking out pub-lic money on another white elephant.

Then again, councillors never ask for our thoughts, theirs are always good deci-sions

P LOWE Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Border posts needed to halt Scots invasion

WHEN the idea of Scottish independence came up, I felt quite upset at the very idea. But then ALL the politicians started kowtowing and ffering Scots all sorts of incentives to stay — I hate this idea.

I can understand the panic from Scottish MPs, they would obviously lose their jobs if Scotland voted to leave the UK. But the other MPs should not be bowing and scrapping, don't offer them money to stay. When India, Pakistan and others wanted to leave the British Empire, for some odd reason we agreed to pay them money every year to help their very poor people. After more than 50 years these people are still no better off, so do not pay the Scots either. Scots either

Scots either.

If they get all these extra concessions, then, England, Wales and Northern Island should get the same. If they leave, then all the students in England Wales and Northern Ireland should get free University educations. Portsmouth and Southampton could get Trident and ship building. We could in reality be better off. Then we should build a number of border posts so, when the Scots realised what a mistake they had made, we would not be inundated by thousands of them coming over the border.

CHOWELLS

Museum was great for family

THROUGH your newspaper I would like to say a big thank you to 'the ladies' (as my four year old calls them) at Haden Hill House Museum in Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath.

My two children and I spent most of the school holidays in the museum and park.

They decorated a bat n' ball, we saw Mr Popple the Magician, who was hilarious, made a dragonfly with the RSPB, dressed up in costume and played with old

fashioned toys.

The school holidays can be a drain on finances but having Haden Hill House Museum on our doorstep meant we could have lots of fun with hardly any ex-

It's a wonderful place so keep up the good work

ladies.
S WILLIAMS AND FAMILY **Cradley Heath**

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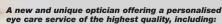
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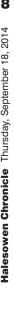
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time ahead for benefit claimants

PEOPLE looking for work in the Black Country will be obliged to spend 35 hours a week in a job centre trying to find employment, as part of a new trial starting next month.

This October will see the introduction of the pilot job search schemes, where unemployed benefit claimants will be required to carry supervised job By Rob Golledge

claimants will be expected to sign an attendance register at a local job centre t 9am and search for

centre t 9am and search for jobs until 5pm, for five days a week over three months. If they fail to do so, they will face sanctions, with the first sanction resulting in the loss of one month's worth of benefits, and the second sanction culminating in the withdrawal of three months' money.

The scheme is also being rolled out in East Anglia.

The scheme is also being rolled out in East Anglia, West Yorkshire, Surrey and Sussex and will run until March next year. If a success, the Department for Work and Pensions say it may be extended to cover the whole country. A total of 6,000 claimants are being selected to take part

selected to take part.

They will be selected by two criteria: the first batch

will be aged between 18-24 and have been claiming for 20-24 weeks, while the second group will be over 25 and have been claiming for 33-37 weeks.

They will only be selected if their job adviser thinks they will benefit from the extra support to find work.

A spokesperson from the DWP said: "It's right that we ask claimants to do everything they can to look for work in return for their benefits and this pilot is looking at how we provide that extra support to those whose lack of job-hunting skills is preventing them from finding a job".

Critics claim in many of the places the problem lies in a lack of jobs rather than a lack of job seeking.

Beacon hailed as best pub in West Midlands



Beacon operations manager Simon Massey, barmaid Samantha Powell, left, and assistant manager Kayleigh Millard

antha Powell, left, and assistant manager Kayleigh Millard SEDGLEY'S Beacon Hotel has been hailed as the best pul in the West Midlands by real ale campaigners at Camra as it issues the latest copy of its Good Beer Guide.

The ale fan's bible also adds a string of new pubs to its lists across the Black Country. The White Lion in Sedgley, the re-opened Fountain in Walsall and the Hail to the Ale in Wolverhampton - opened barely 12 months ago - are all new entries in the latest Guide. And they underline the West Midland's continuing love affair with good, locally-brewed beer, as well as a fondness for good pubs.

But it is the Beacon Hotel, home of the Sarah Hughes brewery, that is considered the cream of the crop. The Guide is full of praise. It says: "This hotel has sat virtually unchanged for decades. It is a Grade II listed building, with a nationally important historic pub interior, where time has stood still. The Beacon lives up to its name – it shines."

It is one of 16 pubs nationwide that will battle it out for Camra's pub of the year title in February.

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Immerse yourself in fashion festival

CLOTHES Show Live, in association with ALCATEL ONETOUCH, will return to Birmingham's NEC Birmingham this December to offer a unique fashion experience.

With catwalk shows, make-overs, manicures, beauty demon-

overs, manicures, beauty demonstrations and style advice, the shopping haven makes for the perfect day out.

Whether you're looking to update your wardrobe, fuel inspiration for a career in fashion, or meet your favourite celebrities and industry icons, repeare to impress ourself in the ulprepare to immerse yourself in the ul-timate fashion festival.

Affordable

Open from December 5-9, Clothes Show Live is sure to provide some-thing for everyone as it displays home designer and boutique collections, emerging designers, next generation talent, vintage finds and affordable fashion. With an endless Beauty Hall

fashion. With an endless Beauty Hall filled with gift bags and goodies, you can enjoy the ultimate shopping spree. And you could be there for free. Organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 90 pairs of tickets for the opening day of the show - Friday, December 5.

Each year the show welcomes a host of leading names in fashion, and this year's fashion experts are made up of Hilary Alexander OBE, Dame Zandra Rhodes, Henry Holland, and the Clothes Show's original presenter Caryn Franklin MBE.

Your favourite celebs including stars from the world of music and reality TV will be returning to the show. Don't miss Rick Edwards and Neon Jungle as well as your favourites from the

as well as your favourites from the cast of TOWIE, Lauren Goodger and



Splash of colour and plenty of choice of catwalk shows

Amy Childs, along with the Made in Chelsea stars Jamie Laing and Millie

Chelsea stars Jamle Laing and Millie Mackintosh ...and many more!

Take time to relax and pamper yourself at one of the many hair and beauty stations. With tutorials and make-over transformations, it could be time to discover a whole new you!

be time to discover a whole new youl Get the latest tips, tricks and inside knowledge from industry experts.

The event's highlight is the award-winning ALCATEL ONETOUCH Fashion Theatre, which this year plays homage to the Fashion Capital of 2013, New York! Every ticket includes a dedicated seat to be mesmerised by the vibes of the Big Apple for the world's largest catwalk performance. For more information and tickets go to clothesshowlive.com

TO ENTER

Simply answer the following question
Where is the

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competition. Chronicles (editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton,

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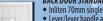
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Midland UPVC Windows and Doors Ltd Law Events 'Disgrace' — anger at TV's depiction of town

Channel 4's fly-on-the-wall documentary showing the daily activities of White Dee and her merry band of Brummies on the dole.

mies on the dole.

Now the channel has launched its latest arrow at the region in the shape of Cops and Robbers, a look at prolific criminals and the work police do to try and persuade them to change.

Last week's first episode focused on Dudley, ironically one of the country's most successful spots when it comes to reducing re-offending. It wasn't a pretty picture.

Reducing

We were introduced to 27-year-old Jason 'Stokesy' Stokes, a self-con-fessed one-man crimewave who has sessed one-man crimewave who has spent a large chunk of his adult life locked up. Then there's Becky, a young woman who finds pinching from shops as easy as sucking back on her crack pipe. She's lost all four of her children to corist convices.

pipe. She's lost all four of her children to social services.

Since Cops and Robbers aired many proud Dudley folk expressed outrage at what many see as an unfair depiction of life in the town.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I thought it was a total disgrace. You can find people like that in every town and city, but of course they had to single us out.

"There are plenty of decent, hard working people in the town, some of whom come from difficult backgrounds.

of whom come from difficult back-grounds.

"The characters they decided to fea-ture are a nothing but a blight on our community. I want to see them behind bars not splashed across the television

A spokesman for C4 said: "We make clear that this is a national issue but one that the West Midlands Police are leading the way in confronting."







Cops show missed the point

WHEN it comes to stopping convicted crooks from committing more crime, West Midlands Police is the best in the country but officers say that success failed to come across in Channel 4's Cops and Robbers.

Of the 171 local authorities in the

Of the 111 local authorities in the UK, some of the lowest re-offending rates can be found on our doorstep with Sandwell rated top and Dudley second. The success has been attrib-uted to an initiative launched by West Midlands Police seven years ago

which involves officers working with offenders to help change their ways. But according to Superintendent Paul Betts, lead for the Integrated Offender Management programme, Channel 4's documentary highlighted the criminal activities of repeat offenders at the expense of the work police do to stop them.

He said: "It focused on the two

characters involved, meaning the work we have done to reduce re-of-fending wasn't really made clear."

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

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PROSPECTIVE pupils are invited to try their hand at science experiments or watch cooking demonstrations at a school's open

ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath will be offering a number of activities to prospective students and their families at its annual Open Events on September 25 and 27.

Thursday,

Halesowen Chronicle

Visitors will be able to vwatch demonstrations in the food technology dethe flood technology de-partment, interact with the geography and history departments and meet academy principal Andrew Burns.

Children due to start sec-ondary school in Septem-ber 2015 and their parents are invited to visit to gain a taster of life at the academy. Doors will be open from 6pm to 8.30pm on the Thursday, and 9am until noon on Saturday.

Say goodbye to St Luke's

A CHURCH in Cradley Heath which has been part of the community since early Victorian times is to

early Victorian times is to close due to costs.

An open day is being held at St Luke's on Saturday, from 10am to 4pm for anyone who would like to have a last look.

have a last look.

Bishop of Dudley, the
Right Rev Graham Usher,
will lead the final act of
worship at 10.30am on October 19 and there will be a ssion from St Luke's

Cobbler's plea stops rival bid by supermarket giant

cal traders after a supermarket giant withdrew its plans to open a rival cobblers store just yards away from his shop.

Charles Powell has run C&C Shoe Repairs on Cradley Heath High Street for the past 30 years. But the future looked bleak for the 69-year-old when Tesco announced it planned to open a shoe repair shop on its car park opposite

Unwilling to give up without a fight, Mr Powell wrote

By Peter Madeley to the store's chairman, Sir Richard Broadbent, to explain how he feared the move would put him out of business.

Petition

It was, by his own admission, a desperate plea for help, but in true David ver-sus Goliath fashion Tesco withdrew its planning application.
Mr Powell, who was

Mr Powell, who was backed by a petition from 250 customers and also re-ceived support from Cradley Heath Traders' Association and local councillors, said: "You can't let these big businesses steamroller the smaller shops.

"I am not against compe-I am not against compe-tition but as a single trader I couldn't have competed with a business on a car park supported by such a huge supermarket chain that could open from Sam to 7pm seven days a week.

"Besides, there are plenty of empty shops in Cradley Heath High Street." Like most towns, trade has been hit by competition from online shopping and out-of-town shopping cen-tres, leading to a number of properties on High Street remaining unoccupied. Business leaders have

Business leaders have hailed the move as a victory for small firms in the Black

for small firms in the Black Country.
Paul Linton, president of the Sandwell branch of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "It is important we support our local businesses because they can give a wider variety of com-petition on the high street.

"In this instance Tesco are to be commended for taking this stance and lis-tening to the view of a small trader who was clearly con-cerned about the future of his business."



Sandwell Council's Garry Morris gets a blast of the foghorn at Oak House

Massive foghorn is on display

IT was once a symbol of Black Country engineering, keeping ships safe at sea.

Now a replica of the fa-mous Sandwell Foghorn has gone on display. It was made by Ian Moran, a blacksmith and artist based in Cradley Heath.

The giant structure is now standing outside the Oak House in West Brom-

wich.
The replica was created

The replica was created three years ago as part of an art project celebrating Black Country heritage.

The 19ft long horn, with a diameter of 9ft, was created from designs once used by the historic Chance Brothmer diasworks in Smethers glassworks in Smeth-

Chance Brothers estab-lished a major lighthouse engineering company in the

engineering company in the 19th Century. It will remain on display until Friday. After that it is going to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley until the end of November.

Night walks to find the

bats at park
VISITORS to an historic
house and park in Cradley Heath can learn more
about the creatures of the
night during two special
walks.
Haden Hill House and
park will host the events
tomorrow night and on
September 26.
The site is home to several different species of
bats which can be seen as it
starts to get dark.

starts to get dark.

Museum services manager Jane Hanney said:
"Haden Hill park is full of wildlife of all sorts but when the sun goes down the creatures of the night come out to play. In order to help them to understand the bats, people on the tour are given one of our bat detectors.

tectors."
The walk on September 19 is for over 14s. The talk starts at 7pm. A family bat walk will take place on September 26 at 6.45pm. Book places on (01384) 569444.

Fire station hoardings OK

TWO advertising signs will go up at a newly-built fire station, after plans were given the green light.

The hoardings will be situated at the Haden Cross Community Fire Station, which serves Halesowen and Cradley Heath. Sandwell Council approved the planning application

Sandwell Council approved the planning application for the signs last week. The fire station was opened in August and re-places the Halesowen sta-tion in Hagley Road and Credley Heath station Cradley Heath station.

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Founded in 2007, Skate Hut is a local family business, gone global! Currently the UK's favourite online skate shop and shipping thousands of different products every day to countries around the world, the company began in the Rubery home of Managing Director Mark Johansen-Berg, before quickly expanding to its Halesowen Headquarters Shenstone Trading Estate. It's not just skateboards and scooters though, and it's not just for the internet shopper. Skate Hut is also a great place to find the latest in streetwear fashion items; choose from over 700 styles of branded footwear, 200 styles of hoodie and 500 different rucksacks, plus unusual gifts, accessories and more. As well operating a busy warehouse to ship this ever-growing range of items to national and international customers, Skate Hut HQ also incorporates a store-front, opening its shop doors to a more local customer base 7 days a week. What all this means for Halesowen shoppers is that they can get big brand T-shirts, hoodies,



available online. So, what are you waiting for? Get down there and have a look around!





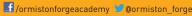
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Sustained attainment has won praise for St Michael's



Supporting student welfare and learning beyond the classroom is essential if every child is to reach their true potential

ST Michael's Church of England High School in Rowley Regis is pleased to have sustained achievement at GCSE level this year against a background of Government reform.

Students achieving five or more at grade C or above, including English and maths reached 51 per cent in Year 11.

reached 51 per cent in Year 11.
Headteacher Mike Wilkes said: "This has truly been a momentous year, for the first time in the school's history, we are officially a 'good'

THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM school in Ofsted terminology, as well as being recognised nationally as the 35th most improved school in the country in the Government's most improved 200 list.

Achievement

"As an inclusive school, St Michael's is very proud of the achievement of students at all levels; we constantly focus on improving the quality of education we offer our young people and place great importance in working together as students, staff, parents, the Diocese of Birmingham and Sandwell local authority, hence our school

mission statement, 'Partners in Progress'. We will offer every pupil a stimulating and challenging learning experience in a friendly, caring environment with first class facilities ensuring they are happy and content in their time at school."

are happy and content in their time at school."

Mr Wilkes, the governing body and the staff and students of St Michael's would like to extend a warm welcome to prospective pupils and their parents at an open evening being held on Tuesday, September 23 from 6pm until 9pm.

The school is also open to visitors on Wednesday, September 24, between 9.30am and 2.30pm.



Telephone: 0121 561 6881

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Please visit our website for more information about the school. Alternatively if you

can not attend at the times shown please contact us to arrange a visit.

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Black Country Willy Wonka — a view inside the Blue Bird Factory

The Blue Bird building at Hunnington, near Halesowen, a major local employer

Curator Clare Weston, who worked at the factory as a teenager, takes a look through the Blue Bird scrapbook

Sweet memories of the Blue Bird brand

LEMON drops, humbugs and chocolate-coated toffees, all boxed in decorative tins with the famous blue bird brand of

the tamous blue bird brand of confectionery.

Decades after the sweets have been peaten, the charm of the Blue Bird tins lives on with many now collector's items. Ranging from designs of British birds to Egyptian tombs, the tinsfrom the former Hunnington-based firm cause fascination.

As part of the Black Country Echoes Festival, the Black Country Living Museum held a presentation of its

oes restival, the Black Country Living
Museum held a presentation of its
Blue Bird collection. Visitors heard
about the factory's history and the
community which revolved around it.
Former workers and their relatives

also shared memories of their time at the firm, which began in 1898 when Harry Vincent set up as a confectioner. He built a factory off Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, ands a garden vil-lage for workers in 1927. The factory had a canteen, concert hall and sports pavilion. The site closed in 1998.

MEMORY LANE

Clare Weston, museum curator, gave a talk on the collection. The 40-year-old worked as a sweet wrap-40-year-old worked as a sweet wrap-per at the factory during university holidays in the summers of 1993 and 1994. She said: "When I was there the place was obviously a much smaller operation but there were still around 100 people still working at the site. It was the hardest work I have ever done, working 8am to 4pm and then till 6pm overtime, on our feet all day at the end of the production line. But there was a sone of community and history.

of the production line. But there was a sense of community and history."

Brenda Osbourn, 68, worked at the factory on and off between 1967 and 1991 after moving into one of the houses built for workers. She still lives there today. Her husband Gerald worked as a caretaker from the age of 14 to 61, while his father Leonard Cebourn was a surar holler at the Osbourn was a sugar boiler at the factory. She said: "People were very

Joan Hughes worked in the offices from 1964 to 1966 after leaving col-lege in Dudley. She said: "When I was

there the firm began modernising and was looking into TV advertising."
Mrs Hughes remembers bus loads of workers being taken to the factory from Dudley.
Historian Julian Hunt, President of

Romsley and Hunnington History Society, believes up to 500 people worked at the factory in its heyday.

He said: "The company's tins were

He said: "The company's tins were iconic. They were designed very carefully to be recognised. A lot of time and effort would have been spent on them, and it paid off. Wholesalers and retailers gained confidence in the brand and gave Blue Bird products prominence in their displays."

The collection of Blue Bird tins and the Harry Vincent Ltd archives were saved by Hull Museum when former parent company Needlers closed down. They were transferred to the Black Country Museum in 2007.

Country Museum in 2007.



Former Blue Bird toffee maker Christopher Guest, from Hun-nington, and former Blue Bird office worker Joan Hughes



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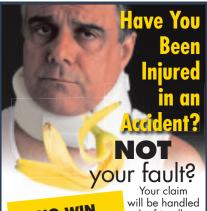
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Question mark over **Quest zone** t centre

THE firm behind the loss-making Quest entertainment zone at the Merry Hill shopping centre has warned it may have to close the

Opened just two years ago, the £1.3 million activities centre has failed to make a profit and operator Paragon Entertainment says its 'performance continues to be chal-

lenging.

The company, which built visitor attractions including Titanic Belfast, the Wallace and Gromit ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the official Olympic Museum in Switzerland, has slashed the value of the Quest centre by £420,000 to just £150,000 and warns that closure re-

and warns that closure remains an option.

Paragon says it is also considering further investment or moving the location of the attraction, which includes rope walks, soft play areas, a jungle-gym assault course and a Nerf combat arena

course and a Neri combat arena.

The Quest centre created 30 jobs when it first opened but now has just two full-time staff and a number of

part-timers.
A spokesman confirmed that the company had been in talks with Merry Hill's new owners, the Intu group,

By Simon Penfold

but declined to comment on

but declined to comment on the nature or content of the discussions.

Paragon used the Quest centre to launch the attrac-tions arm of its business in 2012. Previously it had built attractions for other firms to run.

firms to run.

Quest was also seen as a show room and a test market to explore and develop

ket to explore and develop their new concepts.

In a trading statement this week, Paragon's chief executive Mike Pyrah said:
"The group has continued to address the performance and profitability of Quest and loss margins were successfully narrowed in the first half of 2014.
"Performance continues to be challenging. The performance of Quest Merry Hill is under regular review

Hill is under regular review

True blue Margot turns pink for charity



Stourbridge MP Margot James will be in the pink for breast cancer awareness next month

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has taken part in an event for the Breast Cancer Campaign by wearing pink for

event for the breast Cancer Campagn by wearing pink for the charity's flagship fundraising day. She joined several other MPs as part of the charity's annual wear it pink event in Parliament.

The charity, which raises awareness and money for breast cancer research, is encouraging people to wear pink on October 24, whether to work or school, as part of the campaign. campaign.

Vital

The Conservative MP said: "Every year in the UK over 50,000 women and around 350 men are diagnosed with breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Campaign does excellent work funding the vital research that saves and improves lives, giving people quicker diagnoses and more effective treatments. I hope people will join me by wearing pink on October 24 and show support for breast cancer research."

For more information or to register for a fundraising pack visit www wearingink org website.

pack visit www.wearitpink.org website.

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option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton

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> *The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X).

For a theatre brochure call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel eb page for full information plus terms and conditions

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 18, 2014







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Lots of banter from late start Lee

Symphon Hall Birmingham
I AM sure Lee Mack must have a gag about trains. I could find him one if not, considering said transport caused us to miss the end of this gig.
Shame as he was just getting going,

too.

The funnyman does have a host of jokes about his family, holidays, his and catchphrases, with surprising

sex life and moving house, though. He even revealed which record he lost his

even revealed which record he lost his virginity to.

Mack promised some new material and did not let the audience down.

But it was with his banter with the crowd – and quick-witted responses that particularly made the show.

He posed a quiz about punchlines and outsthappease with currently and the shown.

answers and revealed why, as a boy growing up in the north, the film Psycho scared him so much: "Having a shower in midweek."

snower in midweek.

Sadly, we will never know how it all ended, though with the start being delayed, it would have meant he overran. Maybe that could give him a base for a railway joke after all.

Mark Shipp

Bleak and **REVIEWS** powerful evocation

The Russian Doctor
The Door Birmingham Rep
CELEBRATED Russian
playwright Anton Chekhov
was a medical man, which
may explain his clinical,
approach to his characters.
What is not so well known
about the author of The
Cherry Orchard, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The
Seagull, is that before he
wrote these plays he had
created one remarkable

Seaguil, is that before he wrote these plays he had created one remarkable work of non-fiction.

In 1890 Chekhov made a 3,000 mile journey across Siberia to Sakhalin Island, where he interviewed thou sands of prisoners. These in-terviews and his experiences on the island prompted a book that is a powerful evocation of place and suffer-ing. It has led to a bleak and

challenging piece of theatre.

The Russian Doctor is a blend of chilling video imagery by 59 Productions, atmospheric music by Johnny Pilcher and Ewan Campbell and physical performance by Andrew Dawson. He gives a softly-spoken description of Chekhov's experiences be-fore contorting his body in a representation of pain by turns surreal, obtuse and disturbing.

Leon Burakowski



Debbie Harry — still performing new songs despite a back catalogue of classic pop

One way or another — Blondie more than greatest hits show

Blondie, 02 Academy Birmingham CELEBRATING 40 years, Blondie rode the New Wave to success in the 1970s but new

New Wave to success in the 1970s but new songs in their set on Saturday showed they are not resting on their laurels, even if that includes some of the best pop songs... even. Thankfully tenth album, Ghosts of Download, has some good dance-orientated numbers, such as Sugar On The Side, which meant the pace didn't drop dramatically due to the hit-new-hit sequence.

Former pin-up Debbie Harry remains glamorous at 69 and wearing a Parallel Lines inspired outfit she was the focus for the band including fellow founder members

Chris Stein on guitar and drummer Clem Burke. Her vocal range may be narrower but on Atomic, to quote the song, tonight she was magnificent.
That was one of 11 classic hits in a 90

That was one of 11 classic hits in a 90 minute set that kicked off with recently 1D revived hit One Way Or Another. Rapture morphed into a version of The Beastie Boys' Fight For Your Right and The Tide Is High blending into a cover of Dee-Lite's Groove Is In The Heart. The gig reached a climax with disco-pop classic Heart Of Glass before an encore of Union City Blue, War Child and Dreaming left the fans beaming.

Leon Burakowski



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Enjoy live musical entertainment from brass bands to string quartets and maybe savour some mulled cider and German beer. There is also the chance to browse the festive stalls.

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A COMBINATION of flexibility, friendly staff and fun classes has helped to firmly establish MegaGym on the Black Country fitness map.

Based in Dudley Port, the gym has attracted enthusiastic members of all ages since its January 2013 opening, with everybody keen to lose or gain weight, boost their fitness levels and adopt healthier lifestyles.

Anytime is workout time as MegaGym is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year, ideal for shift workers, early birds or night owls.

Staffed by highly qualified – and always approachable – personal trainers and instructors with a passion for helping members achieve their goals, the gym boasts 250 state-of-the-art Technogym cardio and resistance machines alongside the all-essential functional training zone.

To ensure the equipment is used safely and effectively, all new members are offered a free induction.

For fitness fans preferring to work out in a group, there are 40 fitness classes to select from including the latest world-class Les Mills programmes including BODYPUMP, GRIT (small group training), CXWORX, RPM and BODYCOMBAT. MegaGym also hosts the famous BeachBody Insanity and Zumba classes. All classes take place in a purpose-built, air conditioned studio.

Gym manager Dave Cross said: "To provide affordable fitness in a relaxed and social atmosphere, we've avoided the gimmicks whilst giving you the best quality service and value for your money. Our prices start at $\mathfrak{L}14.99$ and there's also a choice of contract or flexible membership."

MegaGym has a 120 space car park with CCTV and men's and women's changing rooms with power showers, toilets and lockers. There is also a changing and shower facility accessible during the night and into the early hours.

For more details and a video tour, visit www.megagyms.com or pop in for a chat with the friendly team.

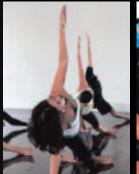






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Riverdance is to celebrate 20 years

IT'S been 20 years since Riverdance, the spectacu-lar Irish phenomena, first burst onto the scene when

burst onto the scene when an excerpt was performed during the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin. The show mixing tra-ditional Irish dance with tap and a whole lot more tap and a whole lot more went on to achieve global success. It has been seen by more than 2.9 million people across the UK and by TV audiences in excess of 2 billion.

The cast includes All-Ireland, Great Britain, All-Scotland, and North American Irish dance champion Andrew O'Reilly. Riverdance 2014 will be performed from Tuesday to Thursday at the new-look NIA in Birmingham city centre. Tickets are £46.50. Call 0844 3388000.

Call 0844 3388000

The Kite Runner adapted for stage

KHALED Hosseini's haunting Afghan tale, The Kite Runner, has been adapted for the stage and

adapted for the stage and is at Birmingham Rep September 22 to October 4. At the Rep's The Studio Lisa Dwan performs the Samuel Beckett trilogy, Not I, Footfall, Rockaby, until Saturday.

Lyngo Theatre present children's fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk at The Rep's Door with performances on Saturday morning and afternoon. ing and afternoon.

ing and afternoon.

A new comedy drama
about a British Sikh family, Happy Birthday Sunita, is being performed at
Wolverhampton's Arena
Theatre from Tuesday to

Dance delight as Birmingham Royal Ballet is returning home

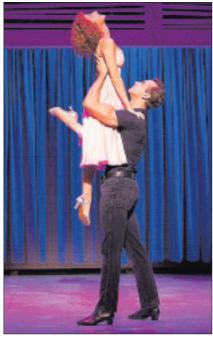
Uplifting, nostalgic romance

FANS of classic 1980s mov-FANS of classic 1980s movine Dirty Dancing will be having the time of their lives when the uplifting tale about romance against the odds is staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for nearly three weeks. The latest production of the show, which was a West End hit, is at the Lichfield Street, venue from Tues-

Street venue from Tuesday, September 23, until Saturday, October 11.
Set in an upstate New York holiday resort during the 1960s, it tells of the love

the 1960s, it tells of the love between Baby and Johnny, a young holidaymaker and the resort dance instruc-tor, played in the movie by Jennifer Grey and Patrick

Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze.
Featuring such 1960s tunes as Do You Love Me and Hey Baby, this tour-ing production has Gareth Bailey as Johnny Castle and Roseanna Frascona as Frances 'Baby' Houseman and recreates that most famous movie dancefloor moment... the lift. moment... the lift.



Nobody puts Baby in a corner — a scene from Dirty Dancing

and three one-act ballets, each touched by war, feature in the Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn programme from next week.

BRB will return home to the Birmingham Hippodrome stage from 30 September to 11 October. First up, until October 4, will be BRB artistic director David Bintley's ever-popular Beauty and the Beast. That will be followed, from October 8 to 11, by Shadows of War, a triple bill of ballets which have a connection with war. It features Kenneth MacMillan's La Fin du jour,

which captures the glamorous 'la plage' lifewhich captures the glamorous la plage life-style enjoyed by bright young things in the 1920s and 30s until brought to an end by the Second World War. Robert Helpmann's 1944 Miracle in the Gorbals was a great leap forward for British ballet when it dispensed with all the glamour of traditional ballets, replacing it with a gritty realism.

Scottish

Bintley's Flowers of the Forest is a ballet in two parts set to music by Malcolm Arnold and Benjamin Britten. It takes its title from and Benjamin Britten. It takes its title from the ballad to Scottish youth slain on Flod-den Field in the war between England and Scotland. Four Scottish Dances presents a picture postcard view of Scotland whilst Scottish Ballad strikes a serious note. The BRB will then be back at the Hip-

The BRB will then be back at the ruppodrome with their Christmas treat for the Midlands, Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker from November 28 to December 13. There is also ballet at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this week when English Youth Ballet give dozens of aspiring young dancers from the West Midlands the chance to private alongside professional prindancers from the West Midlands the chance to pirouette alongside professional prin-cipals in a traditional production of The Sleeping Beauty. More than 100 youngsters aged from eight to 18 will join the eight pro-fessionals in this opulent staging of a much-

loved ballet tomorrow evening and twice on Saturday, matinee and evening. A 'Zulu ballet' can be seen at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday, October 3, when the harmonies of South African vocal group

SALES - SPARES - REPAIRS



Belle met - scene from Beauty and the Beas

Ladysmith Black Mambazo merge with Mark Baldwin's choreography blending Zulu traditions with ballet and contemporary dance. Inala is a one night only performance by 18 dancers and singers. There is more dance, at Birmingham Town Hall, on October 8 when Paco Pena brings his flamenco company to the venue for a production entitled Requiem for the Earth.

The revamped revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until September 27 and adult's only puppet musical Avenue Q continues at the New Alexandra Theatre to Saturday, followed by new 1970s jukebox musical Blockbuster from Tuesday to Saturday, featuring Paul Nicholas and Suzanne Shaw. Ladysmith Black Mambazo merge with Mark Baldwin's choreography blending

Cor baby it's really he at the Robin 2

he at the Robin 2
OTWAY and Barrett, who
found fame in the 1970s
with their debut album
John Otway and Wild Willy
Barrett, will play Bilston's
Robin 2 on Sunday. The record, produced by The Who
guitarist Pete Townshend,
was released in 1976 and
spawned hit single Really
Free, which reached the
dizzy heights of 27 on the
chart a year later.

chart a year later. Rock and Roll's Great-Rock and Roll's Greatest Failure — Otway the Movie was released last year with the help of his fiercely dedicated fan base, who funded the project, and has now made it to DVD. To celebrate Otway returns to the stage with his original songwriting partner. Advance tickets are £12.50 or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or visit therobin.co.uk

Singers are on the comeback trail

PICK of the gigs this week includes the return of singer-songwriter Beverley Craven at the MAC in Edg-baston tonight as part of a tour to mark release of new album Change of Heart.

Former frontman of goth gods The Mission, Wayne Hussey, has a solo show at the Robin 2 in Bilston on

Monday.
That's the same night that alt-J rock the Civic Hall at Wolverhampton with their new album This Is All Yours.

Is All Yours.
Soul, hip hop and rap
fans will be heading over
to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Tuesday for the
return of Ms Lauryn Hill,
as the former Fugee starts
a comeback.

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CHOICE



Jenna Coleman

Doctor Who, BBC 1, 7,30pm The Time Lord has never shied away from a challenge - in fact he's more likely than most to face them head-on. So when he's offered the chance to have a go at breaking into the most dangerous bank in the cosmos, he grabs it with both hands after all, such opportunities don't come every day, even for centuries-old adventurers. The Doctor won't be alone during the task - lending a hand will be a beautiful shape-shifter, a cyberaugmented gamer and, of course, trusty sidekick Clara. And they will have to have all their wits about them if they're to overcome the bank's deadly security as well as the fearsome Teller – a powerful creature that can detect guilt. Sci-fi drama. starring Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman, with a guest appearance by Keeley Hawes

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Silce. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday 1.00 Bargain Hunt. 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Formula 1: Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Grand Prix qualifying session at the Marina Bay Street Circuit, where the 14th round of the season takes place.

6.25 BBC News; Regional News;

- 6.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong challenges famous contestants from children's TV. The four pairs are former Play School presenters Johnny Ball and Carol Chell, idid's game show hosts Dave Benson-Phillips and Carol Chell, idid's game show hosts Dave Benson-Phillips and Pat Sharp, Horrible Histories stars Jim Howick and Ben Willbond and PC Plum and Miss Hoolie from Balamory — otherwise known as actors Andrew Agnew and Julie Wilson Nimmo. Richard Osman has all the answers. has all the answers.
- 7.30 Doctor Who The Time Lord is steal from the most dangerous bank in the cosmos – bringing him face to face with a creature hat can detect a person's guil
- 8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Will
 It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in
 which five contestants answer
 questions to scoop a big cash
 prize. Includes the Lotto and
 Thunderball draws, with Gaby
 Roslin.
- 9 10 Casualty Connie's old boss Casualty. Connie's old boss
 Andrea returns to the ED and risks
 a boy's life to conceal her secret.
 Lofty worries about a patient's
 mental health and Dixie is jealous
 of Tamzin and Jeff.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

- 10.00 BBC News; Weather.
 10.20 Match of the Day, Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included West Ham United v Liverpool at Upton Park and Aston Villa v Arsenal at Villa Park.

 11.40 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Millwall v Nottingham Forest. Forest

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead, 1.05

RRC2

6.10 Film: The Falcon in Hollywood. (1944) 7.15 Film: The Falcon in Sol Life. (1944) 7.15 Film: The Falcon in Sol Life. (19.10 The Trials of Life. (19.10.00 Map Man. (19.10.30 South Africa Walks. (19.10.30 South Africa Walks. (19.11.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys. (19.12.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. 12.25 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (19.12.55 Rick Stain's Madfuterspean Express. (19.15.55 Rick Stain's Madfuterspean Express. (19.15.56 Rick Stain's Rick S Hollywood's Pie's & Puls. (H) 12.55 Hick Stein's Mediternanen Escapes. (R) 1.55 Maggie Smith: Talking Pictures. 2.35 Film: Ladies in Lavender. (2004) Period drama, starring Judi Dench. 4.10 Film: Six Days Seven Nights. (1988) Romantic adventure, starring Harrison Ford and Anne Heche. 5.45 The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R)

6.45 Flog It! Thomas Plant and Catherine Southon value items at London Zoo in Regent's Park, while Paul Martin tours some of the site's listed buildings. (R)

- 7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring orders his blundering platoon to guard the bank's money until repairs on the bomb-damaged vault are completed. Comedy, with Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) 8.00 Operation Stonehenge: What Lies
- Beneath. The concluding part of the documentary focuses on the construction, design and enduring significance of the iconic stone circle and the ancient civilisation that flourished around it. With access to the ground-breaking research of a revolutionary project led by the University of
- research of a revolutionary project led by the University of Birmingham and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute in Wenna, the programme reveals new insights into Britains world-famins world-fa cerman forces. As word of their actions spreads, other reffugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. However, one of the brothers fears their struggle is doomed. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber.
- 11.05 Peaky Blinders. The Lees ransack the Shelbys' betting shop, Campbell puts pressure on Thomas to deliver Freddie and the stolen guns, and John reveals he intends to remarry. (R)

12.05 TOTP2. (R) 1.05 Film: A Boy Called Dad. (2009) 2.20 This Is BBC Two

Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Caiminals. (R) 7.10 Caiminals. (R) 7.20 Commans. (R) 7.25 Cohy. (R) 7.40 Mr. Bean. The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Matt Hatter (R) 7.30 The Munch Box. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Hungry Sallors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Hungry Sallors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News. Song. (1974) 1.30 Catchphrase. (R) 2.15 Newer Knew That About Britain. (R) 2.45 The X Factor. (R) 3.50 Film. (R) 2.45 The X Factor. (R) 3.50 Film. (R) 0.60 Keptional Programmer, Weather. 6.00 Regional Programmer, Weather.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.6.15 ITV News; Weather.

- 6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill marvels at a performance by On Direction lookalikes and present a particularly horrific clip. (R)
- 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Samia Ghadie, Alex Brooker, Annabel Giles and Julian Clary compete to win thousands of compete to win thousands of pounds for charify by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts.
- 8.00 The X Factor. Having proved themselves in front of the judges, the hopefuls must now perform for an audience of almost 5,000 as ior an audience or aimoss 5,000 as the Wembley Arena auditions continue. Expect tears, drama and difficult decisions as the contestants sing for their lives in an attempt to win a place at boot camp and move one step closer to a potentially life-changing record deal. Nermot O'l eary presents leal. Dermot O'Leary presents
- Definition to Leary presents.

 9.20 Through the Keyhole. Kian Egan, Christine Bleakley and Warwick Davis make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon tours mystery homes and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous occupants.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.40 Film: The Shawshank
Redemption. (1994) A banker
wrongly jailed for his wife's
murder forms an extraordinary
friendship with a fellow inmate
over the course of their sentences.
Drama, with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

1.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport. 6.55 Great Scottish Swim. 7.55 The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 Every Royal Cover Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 10.55 Frasier. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Gadget Man. (R) 1.25 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.15 Come Dine with Me. (R)

 to na Lome Uine with Me.
Beatles-loving Scouser David
Gooder hosts the final dinner
party in Cambridge, hoping to
impress his guests with a 1960s
Merseybeat dress code and a
course of "Spicy Beathalls". (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Seath Text Code

6.75 Channel 4 News. Come Dine with Me.

Channel 4 News.

Sarah Beeny's Double Your
House for Half the Money. In
Fleckney, Leicestershire, a couple
battle the elements to renovate a
dilapidated property, while in Great
Missenden, Buckinghamshire, newlyweds expand an old two-bedroom semi. (R)

- 8.00 Grand Designs. GP Peter Berkin and his wife Chard, an alternative medicine practitioner, have decided to build a new home at the bottom of their garden, but cannot agree on any part of the design. Peter is a keen hobbyist who wants the house to feature a workshop where he can build a workshop where the can build a plane, and he's planning to spend twice the £200,000 budget Chard has in mind. Kevin McCloud follows their progress. (R)
- 9.00 Film: The A-Team. (2010) Four soldiers are sent on a top-secret mission in Iraq that results in mission in Iraq that results in them being imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. When they learn the culpril is trying to sell equipment for producing take currency, they break out of prison to find both him and evidence of their innocence. Action adventure based on the 1980s TV series, with Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper, Shartlo Copley and Quinton "Rampage" Jackson.

 11.20 Film: Sexy Beast. (2000) A retired safe-breaker living in Spain is visited by his former gangland boss, who needs his help with a bank job in London. Crime thriller.
- bank job in London. Crime thrille with Ray Winstone.

1.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.05 Homeland. (R) 3.05 Hollyoaks. 5.10 Simply Italian. (R) 5.40 NFL: Rush Zone

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Chinese Food in Minutes, (R) 10.15 Ultimate Police Interceptors, (R) 12.0 Film. The Battle of the V1. (1958) Second World War adventure, with Michael Rennie. 2.25 Film: 1-6-71. (2000) Second World War adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey 4.35 Film: The Great Escape. (1963) Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen.

8.05 The First Great Escape. Documentary using original accounts and diaries extracts to tell the story of a prison break accounts and diaries extracts to tell the story of a prison break staged by British officers from the Hotzminden PoW camp in Hanover during the First World War inspiring the famous breakout from Stateg Luff III in March 1944 that was depicted in the classic 1963 film The Great Escape. The original plan, staged in July 1918, involved inmates making use of cuttery as digging tools to create a tunnel and bed slats to shore it up, with 29 men making it to freedom on the

9.00 World War II in Colour. This worn warn in Joilur. This edition focuses on the effectiveness of the German blitzkrieg – intense military campaigns that aimed to bring about a swift victory using tanks supported by aircraft and infantry. This new type of warfare took the Allies by surprise and allowed. Allies by surprise and allowed Hitler to seize Poland and France within the space of several weeks Actor Robert Powell narrates the story of the global conflict, told using colourised archive footage state-of-the-art terrain mapping and cutting-edge computer graphics, and based on government papers and previously classified files. (R)

making it to freedom on the evening of July 24. (R)

.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Live International Boxing.
Kid Galahad v Adelison Dos
Santos. Coverage of the super
bantamweight bout at Ponds
Forge in Sheffield, as the rising
British star faces a Brazilian
opponent opponent.

opponent.

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.10 Once Upon a Time. Cora tries to get to Mr. Gold before the dark magic dies with him. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. Highlights of the series. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racino Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7 NO Great Movie Mistakes 8 NO Ton Gear 7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 8.00 Top Gear 9.10 Film: StreetDance 2 (2012) 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.00 Family Guy 2.00 Bad Education 2.30 Cuckoo 4.00 Close

BBC Four

BBC Four 7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 8.00 Yellowstone 9.00 Crimes of Passion 10.30 The Story of Top of the Pops 1979 11.30 Animals Through the Night Sleepover at the Zoo 1.00 Top of the Pops: 1979 – Big Hits 2.00 Yellowstone 3.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 4.00 Close

11 00 The X Factor 1 15 Take Me Out 2 45 11.00 The X Factor 1.15 Take Me Out 2.45
Best of You've Been Framed! 3.45 You've
Been Framed: 4.74 4.85 You've Been
Framed! 5.15 Film: Cats & Dogs (2001)
7.00 Film: Twister (1996) 9.20 The Xtra
Factor 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.05 The X
Factor 12.25 The Xtra Factor 1.25 Flebs
2.15 Two and a Half Men 3.00 Teleshopping

172. 45 A Touch of Frost 2.05 Film: Columbo: Fade in to Murder (1976) 3. 40 Wycliffe 4.50 Inspector Morse 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Somb Girls 12.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 1.10 Judge Judy 1.55 Movies Now 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

11 00 The Professionals 12 05 The New 11.00 The Professionals 12.05 The New Avengers 2.20 World Rally Championship Highlights 3.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) 6.00 Storage Wars 7.00 The Motorbike Show 8.00 River Monsters 9.00 Film: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) 11.40 Film: The Silence of the Lambs (1991) 2.00 Minder 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4
11.30 How I Met Your Mother 12.30
Melissa & Joey 1.30 The Big Bang Theory
2.30 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 E Broke
Girls 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 5.30 Made
in Chelsea NYC 6.35 The 100 7.30 Brooklyn
Nine-Mine 8.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00
Film: Get Him to the Greek (2010) 11.15
The Big Bang Theory 11.40 How I Met Your
Mother 12.40 Almost Royal 1.15 Driftes
1.50 PhoneShop 2.20 The Ricky Gervals
Show 3.15 Glee 4.00 Desperate Housewives
Film4

Film4
11.00 Merrill's Marauders (1962) 1.00 Five Children and It (2004) 2.50 Big Miracle (2012) 4.55 Ladyhawke (1985) 7.20 Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) 9.00 Transformers (2007) 11.45 Sightseers (2012) 1.30 Saturday Night Fever (1977) 3.25 Close

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CHOICE



Laura Carmichael

Downton Abbey, ITV, 9.00pm New series. The eagerly awaited fifth series of Julian Fellowes hit period drama begins. It's now 1924, and while Britain feels the winds of change swept in by a new Labour government, Downton's residents – both above and below stairs - are undergoing alterations too. After mourning the death of his beloved wife Lady Sybil for four years, Branson decides it's time he got on with his life, although Robert isn't comfortable about the ex-chauffeur's relationship with local teacher Sarah Bunting. Mary is also ready for love again - but which of her beaus is her Mr Right? Meanwhile, Edith struggles to cope with being parted from her baby, Jimmy receives unwanted female attention and plans for a war memorial cause tension. Allen Leech, Daisy Lewis and Michelle Dockery star.

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Escape to the Country 3.00 The Great Britch Bake Off. (R) 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Lifeline. 4.25 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Formula 1: Singapore Grand Pix Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces the key moments of the 14th race of the season, staged at the Marina Bay Street Circuit. 6.35 BBC News: Recional News:

6.35 BBC News; Regional News;

Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. In Devon, Matt Baker hears about a Second World War bomber that crashed on Dartmoor and joins a farmers' co-operative. Anita Rani meets a sculptor nspired by the local trees. ncluding Weather for the Week

Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, where members of the public bring antiques and collectibles to hear their stories and find out their worth. Hereis include a jade bowl once used as a butter dish, marine paintings from the farmily of Capitain Bligh, a vintage TV set, a medieval ring found with the aid of a metal detector and a wind-up Charlie Chaplin doll. In the new feature looking back at previous items, at specialist Philip Mould hopes to learn more about a 500-year-old religious painting, originally featured in 2010 and now fully restored. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce now fully restored.

9.00 Our Girl. New series. Lacey Turner stars in this follow-up to last year's one-off drama about an aimless young woman who joins the Army, following her deployment to Afghanistan. **D BBC News**; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. A review of

10.30 Match of the Day 2. A review of the latest Premier League action, which included Manchester City v. Chelse at the Ethad Stadium and Leicester City v Manchester United at the King Power Stadium.

11.50 Film: The Resident. (2011) A doctor moves into a spacious new apartment, but realises her landlord is dangerously obsessed with her. Horror, starring Hilary Swank and Christopher Lee.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) 7.00 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 8.00 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.00 The Football League Show. (R) 10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.50 Loriane Passale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 12.20 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) 12.50 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) 1.50 Film: 4 for Texas. (1963) Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. 3.45 Flog It (R) 4.30 Equator. (R) 5.30 Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. Part two of two. The transportation of saltwater crocodiles and wolves. (R)

transportation of saltwater crocodiles and wolves. (R)

6.30 Rugby League: Super League Play-Offbs. Tanya Arnold presents action from the opening matches, featuring the qualifying and elimination play-offs, as the sides look to take their next step towards reaching the Grand Final.

7.30 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. A couple hope to win investment for their fruity alcohol alternative and two recent university graduates bring their range of campus fashions into the Den. (R)

9.00 Life in Soiliary. Documentary

9.00 Life in Solitary. Documentary following the new warden of Maine State Prison as he tries to reform the system and release dangerous inmates from solitary confinement back into the general population.

population.

10.00 Mock the Week. Host Dara O
Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis
and Andy Parsons are joined by
Rob Beckett, Gary Delaney, Sara
Pascoe and Romesh Ranganathan for the topical comedy quiz. (R)

10.30 Peaky Blinders. Thomas deals with an IRA chief out to avenge his cousin's death, Campbell gets closer to finding the stolen guns and Grace has to decide where her loyalties lie. (R)

ioyauies lie. (H)

11.30 Peaky Blinders. Secrets are revealed that force the Shelbys to face up to the problems that have divided them, while Campbell unleashes one last plan to take down the gang. Last in the series. (R)

12.25 Film: Don't Worry About Me. (2009) 1.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.40 Holby City. (R) 3.40 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate
Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat
& Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50
Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Caiminals. (R) 7.10
Camimals. (R) 7.20 Dm Nom Stories. (R)
7.25 Sooty, (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The
Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Ultimate
Spider-Man. 8.20 Nerds & Monsters. (R)
8.30 Big Time Rush. 9.00 The Aquabats!
Super Showl 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.
(R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25
TV News; Weather. 11.30 Film: Carry
On Follow That Carnel. (1967) 1.20 Film:
Beethoven's 2nd. (1993) Comedy
sequel, starring Charles Grodin. 3.00
The X Factor. (R) 4.15 Midsomer
Murders. (R)
6.10 You've Been Framed! Surreal

6.10 You've Been Framed! Surreal You've Been Framed: Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' clips, featuring the horrors of the Harry Styles Finishing School and the sight of Beyonce without her make-up. (R)

make-up. (R)
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium.
Jason Manford hosts the variety
show, with music by Maroon 5,
Earth, Wind & Fire, Ella Henderson
and Evita star Madalena Alberto, plus Canadian acrobats Les 7 Doigts de la Main.

8.00 The X Factor. The search for a star continues at Wembley Arena as the judges give their verdicts on the hopefuls' second auditions. Dermot O'Leary meets the acts as they step into the spotlight.

9.00 Downton Abbey. New series.
Branson's blossoming relationship
with local teacher Sarah Bunting
causes Robert concern, Jimmy
receives unwanted female attention and Thomas gives Baxter an ultimatum

uttmatum.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 The Unforgettable Larry Grayson.
Tribute to the comedian and
game-show host who was hailed
as an overnight success at the age
of 51 and became famous for his catchphrases and camp performances. (R)

performances. (R)
11.20 Premiership Rughy Union.
Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Bath v Leicester Tigers, Harlequins v Wasps and Newcastle Falcons v Morthampton Saints.
12.20 The Store 2.20 Motorsport UK.
3.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, (R)
3.55 TV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 NFL: The American Football Show.
(R) 7.00 Street Velodrome. 7.55 British
GT. 8.30 Ironman 2014. 9.00 Frasier. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George
Clarké's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 The
Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang
Theory. (R) 2.03 The Big Bang Theory.
(R) 3.00 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Film:
Star Trek: Insurrection. (1988) Sci-film: adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart. **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. Prestige Pawnbrokers boss James Constantinou and the team receive a visit from a former Chelsea footballer who has brought along footballer who has brought along some expensive watches. James is also put to the test when asked to evaluate a hovercraft from a Bond film, and an unusual painting of Saddam Hussein causes a stir in the office. (R)

causes a stir in the office. (H)
Operation Maneater. New series.
The Nile crocodile, the polar bear
and the great white shark are three
of the deadliest predators on Earth
– and when they strike out at
humans, it often leads to revenge
attacks. In this series, vet Mark
Evans tries to break the cucle of attacks. Iff this series, yet wark Evans tries to break the cycle of violence, and asks if technology could provide a way for us to peacefully co-exist with these creatures. His mission begins at Namibia's Chobe River, aka the crocodile attack capital of the world. With the holy of creater. crocodile attack capital of the world. With the help of experts Rom Whitaker and Dr Patrick Aust, Mark attempts a radical experiment designed to train the crocodiles to associate the sound of a bell with electric shocks.

of a bell with electric shocks.

Film: Safe House. (2012)

Premiere. A CIA agent stationed in South Africa is sent to question a rogue operative, who has been arrested years after betraying the agency, only to be attacked by mercenaries hired to capture the fugitive. As they flee for their lives together, the interrogator has to contend with not only the enemies hunting them, but also the mind games of his prisoner. Thriller, with Denzel Washington.

11.15 Film: The Sixth Sense. (1999)
A child psychologist takes on the case of a boy terrified by ghostly apparitions. M Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller, with Bruce Willis and Haley Joel Osment

1.10 American Football Live. 5.00 British GT. (R) 5.30 Simply Italian. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bubble Guppies. (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Olly the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Banasa in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Rest Eriend Cody. (D) 8.55 Friends. (K) 7.35 Little Princess. (H)
8.10 The Adventures of Bottle 1op Bill
and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25
Wanda and the Alien 8.40 Rupert Bear.
(R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.
(R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30
LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Access. (R) 10.05
Police Interceptors. (R) 11.00 Police
Interceptors. (R) 1.10 Police
Interceptors. (R) 1.55 Film: Are We
Done Yet? (2007) Comedy sequel,
starring lee Cube. 3.40 Film: See Spot
Run. (2001) Comedy, starring David
Arquette. 5.35 Film: Cloudy with a
Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated
comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader.
7.15 5 News Weekend.
7.20 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The

7.10 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The two mismatched detectives travel to Hong Kong when terrorists bomb the US embassy, and are soon involved in keeping tabs on the prime suspects – high-ranking Triad members involved in an international counterfeiting ring. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, John Lone, Zhang Ziyi, Roselym Sanchez and Harris Yulin. Edited for violence and language. for violence and language.

9.00 Film: In Time. (2011) Premiere. Film: I Time. (2011) Premiere. Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living inteffinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquiries 100 years of time, and spends it flighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake, Armanda Seyfried and Cillian Murphy. 11.10 Film: Elektra. (2005) An assassin

11.10 Film: Elektra. (2005) An assassin has a crisis of conscience and decides to protect the father and daughter she was hired to kill. Comic-book adventure, starring Jennifer Garner and Goran Visnjic.

12.50 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.

1.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 Once Upon a Time. (R)

4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

To United the Apollo 1.30 Both February 1.00 Doctor Who 8.50 Great TV Mistakes 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Bad Education 11.15 Live at the Apollo 11.45 American Dad! 12.35 Comedy Fest Live 2014 1.30 Bad Education 2.00 Russell Howard's Good News 3.00 Live at the Apollo 3.30 Bad Education.

7.00 The John Moores Painting Prize with 7.00 The John Moores Panting Prize with Alexei Sayle 7.30 Secret Knowledge: Hidden Javels of the Chaepside Hoard 8.00 Byzantium: A Tae of Three Cities 9.00 British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash 10.00 Film: Trishna (2011) 11.45 Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975 -1.15 Quadrophenia – Can You See the Real Me 2.2.25 British Art at War: Pombers Sickert and Neb 2.32 Sickers Bomberg, Sickert and Nash 3.25 Close

12.10 America's Got Talent 2.00 You've Been Framed! 2.30 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) 4.25 The X Factor 5.45 The Xtra Factor 6.50 Film: Twins (1988) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 Bad Bridesmaid 11.00 The X Factor 12.05 The Xtra Factor 1.05 Two and a Half Men 1.30 The Big Reunion 2014 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

11.40 Inspector Morse 1.50 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) 3.45 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) 5.50 Wycliffe 6.55 Lewis 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.00 Film: The Hours (2002) 12.15 William and Mary 2.10 Judg Judy 2.55 World Kitchen 3.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale

17V4
11.05 Police, Camera, Action 1 22.05 I Want That Car 1.05 The Motorbike Show 2.05 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) 5.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) 8.00 Premiership Rulgy Union 9.00 Film: Troy (2004) 12.15 Hell on Wheels 1.05 Breakout 2.55 ITVA (Nightscrean 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC 1.35 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 Suburgatory 2.30 The Mindly Project 3.00 New Girl 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.30 The 100 5.30 Ruddisish Tube 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 Film: Marley and Me (2008) 10.00 Almost Royal 10.30 The Big Bang Theory 1.10 Gilus 12.00 Rules of Engagement 1.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.30 Rude tube 2.30 The Ricky Gervals Show 3.25 Hollyoaks

Til.00 The Enemy Below (1957) 1.00 Avatar (2009) 4.05 20,000 Days on Earth Special 4.10 Lonely Are the Brave (1962) 6.20 Runaway Juny (2003) 8.50 20,000 Days on Earth Special 9.00 A Time to Kill (1996) 11.55 Tyrannosaur (2011) 1.45 The King of Marvin Gardens (1972) 3.25 Close





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FILM CHOICES

Hollow Man, Channel 5, 11pm

A brilliant scientist tests an invisibility serum on himself but becomes dangerously intoxicated by the power he acquires. He abandons his morals and heads out into the city to take full advantage of his condition. Realising he has been up to no good, concerned colleagues decide to confront him - with terrible consequences. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Kevin Bacon, Elisabeth Shue, Josh Brolin and Kim Dickens. (2000)

TUESDAY

State of Play, ITV, 10.40pm
A hard-nosed journalist investigating the murder of a congressman's intern discovers a connection between the tragedy and the death of a petty crook on the same evening. As he works to get to the bottom of the story, the reporter uncovers a political conspiracy that places him in a precarious and potentially life-threatening

Adam & Paul, Channel 4, 12.30am
Two childhood friends living in Dublin have grown up to be heroin addicts. During the course of a day, they wander the city, hoping to beg, borrow or steal enough cash to feed their habit – but their efforts only lead them into a series of bizarre misadventures. Comedy drama starring Mark O'Halloran. (2004)



THURSDAY

Killer Instinct: From the Files of Agent Candice DeLong, Channel 5, 3.15pm An FBI agent retires after 15 gruelling years to pursue a

career in nursing. She is drawn back to the bureau after her best friend is raped by a man responsible for a series of murders. However, as she investigates the case, she and her son end up being stalked by the serial killer. Fact-based crime drama, starring Jean Smart and A Martinez. (2003)

National Lampoon's Animal House, ITV, 11.10pm

A college's most slobbish and unruly student fraternity faces expulsion for upsetting the rigid social order of the rebellion against the college dean and a preppy bunch of snobbish bullies at the annual university homecoming parade. Comedy, starring John Belushi. (1978)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Stars hope to shine bright as the competition begins

couple of weeks ago, we got our first proper glimpse of the Strictly class of 2014 during the red-carpet launch show – and on the whole, it went pretty well.

on the whole, it went pretty well.

No one fell down the stairs or out of their costumes, the celebs managed to get through the group dance without any major incidents, and if any of the professional dancers were disappointed with their matches, they hid it well (Iveta Lukosiute in particular seemed very happy to have landed former rugby player Thom Evans).

But as the competition launches in earnest this weekend, it's going to get a lot harder. Instead of being able to hide at the back during a group number, six of the couples will be taking to the floor tonight, with the rest competing on Saturday.

And this time, judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell will be scoring them.

It's going to be a whole new experience for MasterChef's Gregg

Wallace, who is used to being the one dishing out the criticism.

He says: "The judges scare me

because you are working really hard and they are the experts and they are there be scrutinise everything you do. It is in their professional interest to critique you properly and that is scary. If they don't pick up on something you do wrong then they lose credibility.

"On MasterChef I let people get away with things as long as they cover it in Chantilly cream!"

Meanwhile, DJ Scott Mills admits Meanwhile, LD Scott Mills admits he has probably already given at least one judge a reason not to go easy on him." Im et Craig yesterday for the first time. He was on my show and we soaked him with water. So that's probably not going to do me any favours particularly!"

Luckily, Scott adds: "He was very encouraging and nice and told me I have to just do my best. I know on the show he can be quite mean but I guess that's his job — and yesterday I found him surprisingly pleasant!"

And although some people may think that facing the panel is one of the downsides of appearing on Strictly, for one of this year's intake, Strictly, for one of this year's intake, it was a genuine incentive. Presenter Caroline Flack says: "Ever since I was a presenter on CBBC and used to see the Strictly judges walking around Television Centre I have wanted to be on the show... and this year the time was right."

right."

But will she still feel that way ahead of this weekend's shows? If she's nervous, she's probably in good company, as fellow contestants (deep breath) Pixie Lott, Jake Wood, Frankie Bridge, Simon Webbe, Allson Hammond, Steve Backshall, Sunetra Sarker, Mark Wright, Jennifer Gibney, Judy Murray and Tim Wonnacott are no doubt feeling the pressure too.



BEST OF THE REST

Cilla

Reunited with Bobby, Cilla's confidence returns and she once again dazzles crowds with her vocal talents. The re-emergence of impresario Brian Epstein then propels her career to greater heights, but this is quickly followed by a new low when her first record fails to set the charts alight, despite being written by two local lads called John Lennor and Paul McCartney. Epstein suggests a change of direction, persuading the singer to take a gamble on the ballad Anyone Who Had a Heart, against her future husband's advice. Continuing Jeff Pope's three-part biopic charting Cilla Black's rise to fame in 1960s Liverpool, starring Sheridan Smith, with

Aneurin Barnard and Ed Stoppard. Traders: Millions by the Minute BBC2, 9pm

The concluding programme meets a new breed of trader - the British men and women who play the financial markets online from their kitchens, sofas and bedrooms. Mother-of-three Jane squeezes currency trading in-between the school run and her work as a nurse, while Justyn and Akil are both convinced that trading will be their ticket to a lavish lifestyle. Rene gave up a successful career as an antiques dealer for a new existence as a trader,

and is undeterred despite seven years of struggling

TUESDAY

BBC1, 9pm New series. Crime drama, starring David Morrissey Taxi driver Vince McKee and his estranged wife Ros have blamed themselves ever since their son Tim cut ties with the family, and now they live separate lives. Vince's day-to-day existence takes an unusual turn when he accepts an offer from a criminal gang organised by his ex-con mate Colin, who has resurfaced after six years in prison. Although initially thrilled at becoming a driver for gang leader The Horse, once the criminals arrange their major job McKee soon wishes he could have his old life back. Written by Bafta-winning Danny Brocklehurst (Accused) and Jim Poyser, it also stars Claudie Blakley, Ian Hart, Shaun Dingwall, Sacha Parkinson and Colm Meaney

WEDNESDAY Scott & Bailey

Rachel promised the chaos of her personal life was all in the past, but she is conflicted upon discovering her abuser. Meanwhile, Janet gets cold feet when she goes on her first date, terrified at the idea of having to sell herself to a stranger. The crimebusters are united in the search for the killer of Rich Hutchings. who is found murdered in the flat he shares with

his husband Adam, Barry, their outspoken and violent homophobic neighbour, is the prime suspect. However, as Adam's friend Tim struggles to recall events of their night out, it seems Barry may be in the clear. Crime drama, starring Suranne Jones, Lesley Sharp and Danny Miller.

THURSDAY Your Home in Their Hands BBC1, 8pm

New series. There's no end of homeowners who would happily hand over their houses to professional interior designers for a few shows such as 60 Minute Makeove attests. This new

three-parter, though, comes with a twist; the so-called 'experts' are but amateurs themselves. In tonight's opener, Yvonne and Dan Lavery are the guinea pigs letting four budding Llewelyn-Bowens into their abode. They readily admit that they're behind the times, stuck in a decor timewarp since taking over Yvonne's parents' home. They've been reluctant to make any changes for fear of upsetting her folks, but are hoping the 'experts' can help to rip off the plaster and create something modern and exciting

The X Factor

ITV, 9pm

Simon Cowell's search for a star steps up a gear with the first of three weekend shows spotlighting the good, the bad and the downright awful singers and bands who think they have a shot at the big time. In the first of the weekend's triple bill of Boot Camps, the six chair challenge returns. Cowell, Louis Walsh, Mel B and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini must decide on the final six acts they will take to their Judge's House. However, nobody is safe in this game of musical chairs as each judge can change their mind and swap an act with someone already through with another who comes on and out-performs them. Host Dermot O'Leary oversees the wannabe contestants as they sing for their survival and a coveted place in the live shows



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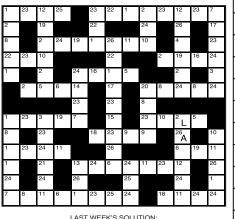


BRAIN GYM 8 Codeword September

Thursday,

Halesowen Chronicle

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Cryptic Clues:

fit the same grid.

- 1 Nearly all going to rocky inlet for a recess (6)
- 4. Just the thing for disturbing a nap!

L

- 9. Should poor orators take a course in this? (6.7)
- termini have been reconstructed (7)
- 11. The man behind this tree is in receipt of civic honours (5) 12. Over and above an
- unknown quantity in revised rate (5) 14. It may come from
- Bach or Dvorak (5) 18. To put in a confined space will produce
- muscular pain (5) 19. A prize that shows degeneration (7)
- 21. Slight upset in temperament (13)
- 22. Sailor to obtain what is aimed at (6) 23. Annul a law about
- the sound of bells

Down

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

- 1 Take a sea-trip round the south to make an attack (6)
- 2. A device for increasing the volume of the strong-box? (5,8)
- 3. Motor required afte six for the clerk (5)
- 5. I keep clean, by the sound of it, but that's humbug (3-4)
- 6. No unusual charge for a flag! (8.5)
- 7. Beds for hens (6) 8. Pole to make this
- sort of speech (5) 13. A sharp answer in
- the letter I posted 15. Handwriting used by
- many an actor (6) 16. Stick used for beating (5)
- 17. Noted book used in the services (6)
- 20. Increase the level of the beams, we hear (5)

Quick Clues:

- 1. Gossip (6)
- 4. Save (6)
- 9. Gambling (6,1,6) 10. Sweet-sounding (7)
- 11. Arc (5)
- 12. Lever (5)
- 14. Quick (5)
- **18.** Adhesive (5)
- 19. Initially (2.5)
- 21. Dismay (13)
- 22. Roof window (6) 23. Grating (6)

- 1. Peevish (6)
- 2. Captured (5.8)
- 3. Lean and tall (5)
- 5. Moral (7)
- 6. Disputable (13)
- 7. Loophole (6)
- 8. Convenient (5) 13. Encase (7)
- **15.** Seasoned (6)
- 16. Wed (5)
- 17 Attitude (6) 20. Discernment (5)

boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Sudoku

8

2

3 9

Fill in the grid below so that

every column

8

3

2



3

1 8

4

6

2

6

8

9

6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Put on one side; 7 Light; 8 Cover, 9 Air; 10 Increases; 11 Events; 12 Finish; 15 Israelite; 17 Kin; 18 Ellen; 19 Tried; 21 Show interest. Down: 1 Private lives; 2 Nag; 3 Notice; 4 Secretive; 5 Dives; 8 Press handout; 7 Large; 4 Secretive; 5 Dives; 6 Press handout; 7 Large; 10 In the know; 13 Inked; 14 Listen; 16 Ralph; 20 lce. QUICK - Across; 1 Praiseworthy; 7 Table; 8 Felon; 9 Um; 10 Sacrilege; 11 Energy; 12 Unfair; 15 Obscenity; 17 Bag; 18 Sauna; 19 Might; 21 Investigator. Down: 1 Picture-house; 2 Sob; 3 Wrench; 4 Ruffianly; 5 Halwe; 6 Interrogator; 7 Fense; 10 Segregate; 13 Ambit; 14 Kismet; 16 Spurn; 20 Gag.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

Simple, free, and all in one place.

A Y V R T Z O N X M J L P

S | Q | B | C | D | G | F | W | K | I | H | E | U

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Five-bedroomed home with commercial unit











ble development potential.

It is for sale through Bairstow Eves at £395,000.

Eves at £395,000.

It has an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, a kitchen with a double gas oven and hob with extractor fan, utility with plumbing for a washing machine, WC, family bathroom, bedroom one with en suite, two further bedrooms, second floor bedrooms four and five (both en suite), and rear garden with patio, and unit.

Contact on 0.121 5444554 or visit

Contact on 0121 5444554 or visit

Victorian family house that's been refurbished



roomed Victorian detached home in Dingle Street, Oldbury, has been refurbished to a very high standard. It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at offers over £174,950.

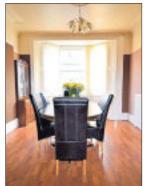
With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an open plan lounge and dining room, front office or breakfast room, kitchen with dining and breakfast bar.

There are also two cellars, a work-shop area, car port and a garden. The master bedroom has patio doors

leading to a balcony terrace There are two further bedrooms, bathroom and loft.

Contact agents Love Your Postcode 0121 5449595 or go online to view the property at www.wlyp.co.uk website.







sowen, Briefly comprising Of: 3 Bedrooms, large loung



de-sac. Entrance porch leading to entrance hall, large through nge/dining area, study/playroom, superb bathroom with 'l garden, driveway to front for 2 cars. EPC: E

































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Carters Lane

Halesowen

Offers in the region of £289,950



Offers in the region of £179,950



Highfield Lane

Quinton

- Three bedroom detached house

- ** Large garage

 * Extensive rear garden

 * Full of potential

 * Some modernisation and improvement required so should be of interest to both families and Investors/Builders.

 EPC=tbc

Guide Price £210,000





Belgrave Road

- Mid terraced property
- Breakfast kitcher Three Bedrooms
- Offers in the region of £139,950

Bartley Green



- Link detached house
- Kitchen/Dining room
- Living room Two bedrooms

Offers in the region of £149,950

Quinton



- Traditional style semi detached

- Traditional style semi detac

 * Three bedrooms

 * Breakfast Kitchen

 * Through living room

 * Utility,Downstairs WC and
 Conservatory

 * Large rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £214,950

Oldbury Tividale



Gibbet Hill

- * Spite thill

 * Spit level detached house

 * Open plan living space

 * Fitted cloakroom

 * Four bedrooms

 * En suite shower room

 * Utility

 * Death

* Double garage EPC =C Offers in the region of £339,999

Halesowen



Narrow Lane

- Detached House
- *Three Bedrooms

 * Through Living Room

 * Downstairs WC

 * Garage

 EPC = D

Offers in the region of £159,950

Bartley Green



- Spacious semi detached house

- * Two Reception Rooms

 * Breakfast Kitchen

 * Conservatory

 * Garage

 * No Chain EPC=E

£174.950



Bristnall Hall Road

- Semi detached
- 2 Reception Rooms In need of general m
- improvement
 * NO CHAIN EPC=tbc

Oldbury



Bristnall Hall Road

- Semi detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- improvement
 * NO CHAIN EPC=F

£124.950

Cradley Heath



Higgs Field Crescent

- Spacious detached bungalow

- * Two bedrooms
 * Guest cloakroom
 * Conservatory
 * Garage
 EPC = D

Offers in the region of £199,950

Cradley Heath



37 Spinners End Drive

- * Spacious 2nd floor flat
 * Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe
 * Large living room * Kitchen with oven
 and fridge * DG windows & storage
 heating * Allocated parking space
 * Convenient location
 * Available now! * EPC=D

Monthly rent of £375+ application fe £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit



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 5 Spacious living room with 'Juliet'
 balcom,' Balthroom with shower

 5 Secure gated car park & allocates
 space 'D D8W 'Electric heating

 FEC=C

 Monthly room of 6205

* EPC=C

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VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit



Flat 10 Beechwood Court

- 437 Halesowen Road 437 Halesowen Koad
 **REFURBISHED One bedroom 1st
 floor flat **Excellent finish with new
 carpets **Luring room with storage
 cupboard **Fitted klitchen **Bathroom
 with shower over bath **Car space
 within communal grounds
 **Available Now! **EPC=C
 **Monthly rent of £350•* application fe
 £135 (ine VAT) 1st lenant and £100 (ine.)
- £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent



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£219,950 QUINTON © 0121 421 7766







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 Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
 Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room Utility Room Clocks W/c
 Ihree Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
 nefitting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double G Heating System and Double Glazing Garden To The Renr Benefitting Fro

FARLEY COURT, OLDBURY ROAD, OLDBURY,

Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating C

Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen
drooms En-suite To Master plus Further Bathroom
Allocated Parking Area To Rear Of Block

Viewing Recommended

CUINTON © 0121 421 7766

CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY,



£175,000 QUINTON © 0121 421 7766



and Double Glazing MANOR ROAD, SMETHWICK



FARM ROAD, OLDBURY,



Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D unge/Dining Room Kitchen Conservatory e Bedrooms And Bathroom W/c ved Driveway Spacious Rear Garden A High Standard Viewing Recommended QUINTON © 0121 421 7766 £145,000 TITFORD LANE, ROWLEY REGIS,

 Detached Property EPC Rating D
 Through Lounge Kitchen To Ground Floor
 Three Bedrooms Bathroom To First Floor
 Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
 Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain
 QUINTON
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 QUINTON
 To Detach To Detac WATERWAYS DRIVE, OLDBURY,

Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C Lounge and Kitchen To The Ground Floor b Bedrooms and Bathroom To The First Floor
 Front and Rear Gardens Parking Area ubject To References Immediate Availability

CLOVER DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN

Semi Debached Bungalow EPC Rafing B
Lounge-Drining Room Conservabry Kilden
The Bedrooms Balthroom W/c
stendish From Central Heating Double Classing and Solar Panels
Front and Rear Gardens Carage En-bloc
QUINTON © 0121 421 7766 Property Benefits From Central I
 Front and Rear

£135,000 SEYMOUR ROAD, OLDBURY



BOUNDARY AVENUE ROWLEY REGIS,





FARIEY COURT, OLDBURY ROAD, OLDBURY,

First Floor Apartment EPC Rating B
 Open Plan Lounge Kitchen
 One Bedroom Bathroom
 Allocated Parking To The Rear Of The Block
Subject To References Immediate Availability





mortgages

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Vauxhall's hot Astra GTC

By David Banner

An Astra GTC is available with a powerful 1.6-litre direct injection petrol engine, priced from just £20,995 on-the-road.

First seen in the Cascada convertible, and packing 200PS and 300Nm of torque, the four cylinder unit allows the GTC to achieve a top speed of 143mph and 0-60mph time in 7.3 seconds, making it the fastest non-VXR model in the Astra range.

Peak power and torque are increased by up to 30 per cent over the previous 1.6-litre turbo model, yet fuel consumption of 51mpg combined and emissions of 154g/ km have meant a 13 per cent improvement in efficiency.

The engine brings sector-leading refine ment to the Astra GTC range. It is the only unit in its class to feature twin balancer shafts for smooth running, while a host of sound engineering measures have been made for low noise, vibration and harshness (NVH).

Priced from £855, Vauxhall also introduced the innovative Intellilink infotainment system to the Astra GTC range.

Intuitive and user-friendly, the system features satellite navigation, voice control, Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity picture viewer and Gracenote album art, all via its high-resolution 7in touch-screen

display.

In addition, the top-of-the-range Navi 950 IntelliLink contains Europe-wide street level mapping with updates easily downloadable via USB.

Drivers can also have incoming text messages read out to them, as well as integrating their smartphones' own voice

recognition functions.
"We've strengthened our Astra GTC offering with a strong and powerful 1.6-litre petrol engine and the cutting-edge Intelli-link infotainment system," said Stuart Har-

ris, Vauxhall's head of carline brand.
"Vauxhall is really throwing down the gauntlet to UK coupe sector rivals with these enhancements to our Astra GTC

Lifetime

With the Astra GTC and all models in its passenger car range, Vauxhall gives peace of mind for the life of the vehicle via its industry-leading Lifetime Warranty.

Available to the first owner, the warranty is valid for the lifetime of the vehicle up to a maximum of 100,000 miles.

Vauxhall has also made the top-selling Astra available with a super-smooth generation 1.6 CDTi engine, Vauxhall's cleanest-ever mid-size diesel.

Previously only available on the Zafira Tourer and the Meriva, the new 1.6 CDTi engine is now set to enhance the Astra's appeal as Vauxhall continues to significantly refresh its powertrain offer.

The much-lauded engine is available in two power outputs: 110PS and 136PS, in both hatchback and Sports Tourer body

The 110PS version achieves 76.3mpg combined with CO2 emission of just 97g



'It is the only unit in its class to feature twin balancer shafts.'

km, and 72.4mpg combined and 104g/km in 136PS guise.

Quiet and refined, the 1.6 CDTi is one

of the best engines in its class for noise and vibration thanks to an efficient combustion process with multiple injection, re-designed components and the use of acoustic covers.

Already Euro 6-compliant, the engine is

best-in-class in noise and vibration gener-

Not only is the 1.6 CDTi super-refined,

it's also clean and powerful, too.

A high-pressure common rail injection system and lean NOx trap exhaust-after treatment (LNT) improve efficiency, while a variable turbine turbocharger help make the new diesel a strong performer, to

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07/07 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL one owner 47k, Burnt Orange, CD Player, E/Windows £3995 / £28 Per Week

07/07 Peugeot 307 1.6 S Automatic, 42k, Red, Alloys,

Air Con, CD £3995 / £28 Per Week

06/06 Ford Fiesta I.4 Zetec 3dr, Blue, *ONLY 39k MILES* Alloys, Climate Pack £3695 / £24 Per Week

04/54 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 DTi Diesel 16v Elegance 7 Seater, 67k, Silver, Alloys, Air con, CD £3295 / £23 Per Week



Finance example: Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Diesel, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 48 Payments of £122.28 (£30.50 per week) Total amount payable £6169.44 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Honda unveils its new special edition CR-Vs

Honda (UK) has unveiled two eye-catching, special edition variants of the popular CR-V, the Black Edition and White Edition.

DRIVETIME

Both share a range of bold exterior enhancements that give the car even greater road presence. The CR-V Special Edition models represent a saving of £770 compared to the CR-V SE-T combined with the relevant optional equip-

With both the Black Edition and White Edition, the CR-V's distinctive styling is enhanced with the addition of bold 19in Orion alloy wheels, exhaust

finisher and privacy glass.

A new patterned front grille gives a more powerful expression of performance, while a tailgate spoiler extends the flowing lines of the roof over the rear window to give a sleek, dynamic look. Smoothly integrated running boards add practicality and visual impact, while front and rear skid plates top the styling upgrades while protect-ing the underside of the car. The special editions also benefit

from the generous specification offered with the CR-V SE-T, which features dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth HFT, front and rear parking sensors and power-folding door mirrors, plus metalic paint and satellite navigation all as standard. The CR-V special editions will be

supported online at www.honda. co.uk/headturner with a campaign which dubs the new model 'The new head-turner from Honda'



The site invites users to choose 'Which one turns your head?', with an interactive graphic showing the percentage split between those fa-vouring black against those opting for white. Users can also tweet their preference with the hashtag #CRVWHITE or #CRVBLACK, or hashtag share their choice on Facebook.

Leon Brannan head of cars for Honda (UK) comments: "The CR-V is already a very popular choice thanks to its combination of distinctive and refined styling and excellent versatil-

The new Special Edition Black and White enhance the range even further, offering real stand-out appeal and a

£8,295

£7,995

£7.795

£9,495

£10,995

£8,995

£9,495

£9.795

£9,495

f8 495

£11,495

£3,495

£3,795

£11.995

bold new look. Now the only decision for customers is which colour most turns their head!"

The new models are available now in manual or automatic, with either the 2.0 i-VTEC petrol or 2.2 i-OTEC diesel engine.

On the road prices start from £28,400 for the petrol man-ual version. Honda (UK) is currently offering competitive monthly PCP payments from just £309 on the CR-V Special Edition.

This new variant also benefits from a £500 deposit contribution and the 5 year Honda care package which includes five years warranty. servicing and roadside assist for £500.

£5,995

£10,495

£8,495

£6,795 £7,495

£8,995

£7,695

£8,995

£2,495

£2,495

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The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, to allow sign repair work to be carried out.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 3, QUINTON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (NO.2) ORDER 2014

Work will be carried out over one night between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours during the week commencing Monday 13 October 2014. The Order will come into force on Monday 6 October 2014.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from

A diversion route via the A456, A4123 and M5 Junction 2 will be signed For further information, please contact Catherine Townend on 0121 678 8323

Mike Lloyd, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency.

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500 3955 Box No: 411517

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JAMES, 45yrs, solvent carring gent, recently divorced seeks genuine lady to wine and dine. Single mums welcome. Box 4459441 Text only

IAN 57, 6ft, big build, looking for slim lady any race who enjoys walking, travel, meals in/out good, conversation, for a good relationship. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4184039

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TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049 🗒

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box № 14.242627 ft No: 412867

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality. slim-medium build. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414063 🗒

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signs on for extra four years

VILLA boss Paul Lambert insists he is focused

obert insists he is focused on building upon his solid foundations after signing a new four-year deal. The former Norwich manager has had two difficult seasons at Villa Park since he joined from the Canaries in the sum-mer of 2012 – Villa finish-ing 15th in both Premier League campaigns.

But they have made an excellent start this time around, winning three and drawing one of their four Premier League

"I'm determined that we continue building the club to where we all want it to be," Lambert said.

"This is a massive football club, a fantastic football club. We've made progress and we believe we're on the right road to build upon the strong start we've made."

Striker Gabby Agbonla-hor, meanwhile, is looking to win back a place in the England squad.

Clubmate Fabian Delph Clumate rabian Delph is already there and Bir-mingham-born Agbonla-hor believes Villa's great start to the season could persuade Roy Hodgson to pick him.

The 27-year-old forward recently signed a new, four-year deal at Villa and has promised to repay the club's faith.

Ninth place for Lines in Racing Cup

STEWART Lines, from Sutton Coldfield, has finished ninth in this year's Milltek Volkswagen Racing Cup.
The Birmingham-born businessman posted a 13th place in his Maximum Motorsport Volkswagen Scirocco in the final race of the season at Donington Park track in Leicestershire at track in Leicestershire at the weekend.

Lines, who runs his own team, posted eight top-10 finishes in the 14-race series and has vowed to make a

and has vowed to make a bigger impression next year. "Tive learned a lot this year and I'll come back bigger, better and stronger in 2015," said Lines." I feel Maximum Motorsport now has a solid foundation to build on in the series for next year."

Lambert Victorious Villa in dreamland at Anfield

LIVERPOOL may consider taking down the famous 'Welcome to Anfield' sign' the next time they get a visit from Villa.

Lambert's men will be far from welcome after continuing their flying start to the season with a stunning victory. on Merseyside Paul Lambert's men will be far from

Saturday's success, courtesy of Gabby Agbonlahor's ninth-minute strike, took Villa's tally to eight points from their last

It also left the Claret and Blue army chanting 'We're going to win the league' after a third win in four matches put them

second in the table. Who can blame Villa's fans for basking in the glory of a superb opening to the campaign?

opening to the campaign?

Lambert's side grabbed an early lead through Agbonlahor and then restricted their hosts to few create clear-cut chances.

With Daniel Sturridge sidelined for up to three weeks with a thigh injury – for which manager Brendan Rodgers has still not forgiven England – it meant Liverpool started a game without him or Luis Suarez,

a summer departure to Barcelona, for the first time since December 2012.

The pair scored 56 league goals between them last term so it was immediately apparent where the Reds were most likely to be under the greatest strain.

Stifled

Stilled
Lambert knew this, and also the fact
their opponents have still not entirely
cracked the defending set-pieces thing, and
that was what he targeted.

A well-drilled Villa denied Liverpool
space in the final third which stifled much
of their forward progress, while the visitors

attacked with speed e and were aggressive at corners and free-kicks – which ultimately produced their winner.

Physical

Mario Balotelli was brought in by Rodgers to provide additional firepower but he was kept in check by Philippe Senderos. The Swiss defender adopted a physical approach and certainly made his presence felt. He got away with at least one blatant hack at the former Manchester City striker off the ball which would have likely resulted in a red card had the referee seen it.

Golden girl who beat bullies faces new goal

BRITAIN'S golden girl of wheelchair tennis Jordanne Whiley has served up her next goal to become the 'face' of her sport.

Yet it wasn't so long ago that bullies at school made the 22-year-old from Halesowen want to turn her head away in horror.

After a whirlwind fortnight, where she made history as the first Briton to hold all four Grand Slam titles in a calendar year, that seems hard to believe.

Tennis

Winning the US Open wheelchair doubles with partner Yui Kamiji of Japan completed a feat previously achieved only by greats Ste-ffi Graf, Rod Laver and Mar-

garet Court.

"It's amazing really. Noone can take it away from
me because I'm the first person to do it and it's some-thing really special to me," she said.

"It's also great that the first British person to do it is disabled as well.

"It's putting the sport up there on the map and it shows it's high-level and professional.

"I look at the way dis-Thorn at the way disabled sport has taken off since London 2012 and see the way some people have become household names, such as David Weir and Mickey Bushell and I want to be the same.

"Tennis is such a big sport in the UK, so why shouldn't it be big as a wheelchair sport? I want to become a face of wheelchair tennis, much in the same way as Ellie Simmonds has done for swimming."

Whiley is a winner and

these days confidence oozes from her as abundantly as the blond hair tumbles

down her back. But it wasn't always that way. Born with osteogenesis imperfecta osteogenesis imperfecta – the same condition as her father Keith, a Paralympian, she broke her legs some 26 times before she was 12 and faced years of painful surgery. But as bad as the physical pain was, there was also the emotional distress caused by bullies at school, Earls in Halesowen.

Mean

"It was quite bad at high school; there were a lot of mean kids," she said. "People used to throw stuff at me and take my bag and put it somewhere where I couldn't somewhere where I c get it because I used to walk with sticks at the time."

While she has achieved her biggest successes as one half of a doubles act, Whiley, who now lives at Ickenham in Middlesex, wants to be just as good at the singles game

"Next year the aim is to do all the Grand Slams again but I'm hoping to do it in the singles as well be-cause I got to the semi-finals in Australia but got knocked out in the quarter-finals in the US," she added.



It's crystal clear that Jordanne Whiley is a winner - here's her US Open wheelchair doubles trophy

Hat-trick as three of teams are promoted

HALESOWEN Club are celebrating season to remember.

Three of their teams achieved promotion, most notably the men's A team who reached Division 2 of the Birmingham Area League – the highest Halesowen's men have ever been.

Captained by Christian Paton, they won the league by two points, beating Hall Green into second place. Halesowen's 4-0 thrashing of Marston Green ensured promotion with a match to spare.

with a match to spare.
The B team, playing
in Birmingham Division
7, are in second place
having completed all of
their matches. Barring a
shock result from Knowle
& Dorridge Tennis Club
this month, they will also
be promoted.

be promoted.

The men's team in the Staffordshire League are Statiordshire League are in fourth position, again having finished all of their matches and in the Hereford and Worcester league are mid table.

Halesowen's ladies were similarly successful. Having been promoted to Division 3 of the Birming-ham Area League last season, the A team fought hard to finish in fourth

Halesowen's mixed team went unbeaten, achieving promotion.

Champions are beaten by George

The George 233 KGV 209 THE firsts entertained KGV who have already wrapped up the Warwick & Worcester Premier Division One league title while The George needed to win to stay in with a chance of claiming the runners-up

spot.

After the first four The George held a 10-shot lead. The George pulled away from KGV in the middle four and the back four saw another set of close games. another set of close gar Windmill 249

The George 158
The seconds team finished their South Staffs Premier Division season with a 91-shot defeat at The Windmill but have maintained their status in the top flight of the Staffs League.



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Tennis smashers

Halesowen club has three teams promoted Page 35

Jordanne home

Tennis star takes time out to relax Page 35



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Injured keeper Foster to play on

GOALKEEPER Ben Foster is ready to play on for Albi-on despite revealing he has

broken a bone in his thumb.
Foster is hopeful the injury will heal naturally with the help of painkilling injections as he looks to help the Baggies kick-start their

the Baggies kick-start their season.

The 31-year-old, who admitted a "schoolboy mistake" in Saturday's 2-0 defeat to Everton, returned early from international duty after taking a painful blow on his thumb with scans diagnosing a fracture, but he is hopeful the injury will not require surgery.

"Hopefully not," he said.
"I am managing it pretty well and getting some injections in it to kill the pain, so it's fine.

it's fine.
"It definitely wasn't an

"It definitely wasn't an excuse for Saturday because it's my left hand and the mistake was down to my right-hand side so I can't use that as an excuse and I wouldn't anyway.

Albion are without a win in the first four games of the Premier League season, leaving boss Alan Irvine under fire after his side were booed off following the Everton defeat. But Foster insists they have played bet-

Everton defeat. But Foster insists they have played better than results suggest. "It's disappointing," he said. "We have actually played really well at points this season.

Heathens will face big rivals

CRADLEY have picked arch-rivals Mildenhall as their National League play off semi-final opponents.
Heathens bosses got the choice after topping the table and have opted to face the side which pinned them

table and have opted to lace the side which pipped them to the title two years ago in controversial circumstances at King's Lynn.

The teams will meet over two legs with the winners facing Coventry or Kent in the final

the final

The first leg will take place at Monmore on Tues-day, September 23 with the return at West Row on Sun-

return at West Row on Sunday, October 5.
Heathens have reserved
Tuesday, October 7 for the
home leg of the Knockout
Cup Final should they see
off Coventry.
The away leg against
the Storm has yet to be arranged, but Cradley have
the big cushion of a 35-point
lead.

Stick with us, Gardner urges Albion fans

CRAIG Gardner has pleaded with fans to stick with Albion and claimed: "We're all in this together".

The Birmingham-born midfielder says he can understand supporters voicing their frustrations at the Baggies' slow start to the season, which has seen them take just two points from the first four Premier League

Fans made their feelings known during and after Saturday's 2-0 home defeat to Everton - with goalkeeper Ben Foster later branding criticism of skipper Chris Brunt as "pathetic". Gardner, who joined from

Sunderland, says supporters need to stay with Alan Irvine and his team as they try to dig themselves out of early season trouble.

"I am a local lad. I'm a fan and I know what it feels like," he said. "They (the fans) come to the games and they pay the wages but as a team, including the fans, we're all in it together. in it together.

"West Brom is a family club and we give it everything we can and try our hardest every week. We just need to stick together.

I know it's frustrating but it's early in the season and I think we'll be fine." Gardner felt Albion were unlucky in Sat-

urday's defeat.

Unlucky

"We conceded a goal really early again but then in the first half I thought we were unlucky," he said. "We played some decent stuff and worked hard and caused them problems at times.

Meanwhile, head coach Alan Irvine is ready to don his 'managerial mask' in a bid to keep his players smiling for Sunday's trip

to Tottenham. Irvine insists the players hurt from the defeat to Everton.

But he knows he cannot let his own dis-

But he knows he cannot let his own disappointment spread to his squad as they gear up for the visit to White Hart Lane.

Irvine, who is mulling over team changes for the game in North London, sait: "As far as the players are concerned I will move on quickly because there's nothing to be gained by dwelling on this, other than thinking about positives."

"As a manager and a coach, you put the mask on and you try to get everybody back to where you need them."

Blues are defeated at home

Birmingham City 0 Sheffield Wednesday 2

SUMMER signing Stevie May netted the opening goal as Birmingham slipped to a 2-0 home defeat to Sheffield Wednesday.
The Scotland Under-21

international, who joined the Owls in an £800,000 move from St Johnstone last month, notched his second goal since moving south in the 68th minute to provide further evidence of Wednes-day's quiet revival under manager Stuart Gray. The visitors sealed the three points with a second

goal a minute from time through substitute Jeremy

The win was just reward for the visitors' positive

play. Birmingham again

Birmingham again dropped home points – a major problem for the Blues last season – as their struggles to get out of the lower reaches of the Championship continued.

Wes Thomas headed over from Dave Cotterill's cross, while newcomer Brek Shea shot into the side-netting. Wednesday had another let-off when Paul Caddis crashed a 20-yarder against a post in the 33rd minute. a post in the 33rd minute

New boy brings

Darlaston victory

DARLASTON made it two

consecutive wins and kept their first clean sheet of the season in this hard-fought

victory at Long Lane, helped by new boy Richard Young. The signing from Sport-

ing Khalsa, on as a substitute for the injured Reeves

whipped in a superb cross, met by Swann with a header from six yards out.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by

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LAST-GASP G ESCUES POI

Halesowen Town 1 Nantwich Town 1

SUBSTITUTE Joe Hull's header rescued a last-gasp point for Halesowen two minutes into injury time.

Nantwich took the lead with a scrappy goal after 16 minutes when Max Harrop's corner fell for Aaron Burns to poke home after the Yeltz failed to clear.

Vinny Mukendi then blasted wide and flashed a 25th minute header just

over the bar.

As the Dabbers enjoyed As the Dabbers enjoyed the better of the first half, Harry Clayton's fierce drive was collected by home goal-keeper Matt Sargeant.

At the start of the second

At the start of the second period home substitute Neil MacKenzie made space but his final effort was tipped away for a corner by goal-keeper Aaron Ashley.

Scare

But Halesowen survived a 60th minute scare when Clayton's shot beat Sargeant only to rebound back to safety off the far

The Yeltz had plenty of second half possession but wasted a 63rd minute out wasted a oard minute chance when a free-kick from Tom Tonks found Iyseden Christie but he snatched at the ball and fired over the bar. Four minutes later Chris-tie struck another effort just wide down the left

wide down the left.

Nantwich could have put the game beyond doubt in the final minute as four players broke away but substitute Jordan Johnson went alone and his shot was beaten away by Sargeant. Hull finally saved Hale-

Football

sowen's day as he met a long Tonks throw-in to nod home the late equaliser from close

There was still time for

There was still time for Tonks to deliver another long throw into the penalty box but this time Hull's header dropped wide.

Tuesday's draw was manager John Hill's 50th home game in charge of Halesowen Town. They have won 60 per cent of those matches matches.

After the draw with Nantwich, Hill said: "We are totally drained after tonight's inept performance I can only apologise to the supporters for that. We des-perately need a midweek break."

Next up for the Yeltz is a trip to Ashton United on Saturday. Ashton are level on eight points with the Yeltz, who are fourth from the bottom.

Halesowen Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Hull 72), Turner (Forde 46), Kettle, Tilt (c), Bragoli (MacKenzie 46), Tonks, Christie, Thompson-Brown, Lait, Unused Subs: Grif-

fiths, Pearson. Referee: Ben Cooke. Attendance: 298

Three quick goals fire Yeltz into second round



Defender Curtis Tilt scores in a crowded goalmouth during his 50th appearance for Halesowen Town

HALESOWEN secured a safe pas-sage into the FA Cup second qual-ifying round with three goals in 15 second-half minutes.

Previously unbeaten Sutton's only attempt on target came after 14 min-utes when Andre Gonzalez struck straight at home goalkeeper Matt Sarreant

In a disjointed first half, Joel Ket-tle's attempt to guide a 21st minute volley into the bottom corner was

blocked by his former Sutton teammates. Yeltz forced four corners in quick succession with Iyseden Christie's header tipped away by goal-keeper Lee Evans.

Robert Thompson-Brown fired a good chance over the Sutton bar.

The Yeltz re-emerged with all guns blazing after the interval and took the lead when Elliott Turner's 49th-minute long free-kick sailed straight past Evans into the far cor-

ner. Defender Curtis Tilt nodded home Turner's 56th-minute corner to double Halesowen's advantage. Three minutes later Thomp-son-Brown made it a comfortable 3-0 by skipping past two defenders down the left to curl home the goal of the game.

game.
Yeltz have been drawn away to
Ellistown & Ibstock in the FA Cup
second qualifying round. The match
will be played on September 27.

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